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LD291419 [Editorial Report]

Shultz Tour

Israeli Comment—Commenting on his talks with Secretary of State George Shultz 29 February, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said they had reviewed the problems between Israel and Jordan "very thoroughly," adding that he believes the Jordanians are taking Shultz' proposals "very seriously." Peres' remarks were broadcast by IDF radio, which noted that Shultz was on his way to Amman for a second round of talks with Jordanian officials. The previous day, Jerusalem radio broadcast an interview with the director general of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office, who said the results of Shultz' earlier visit to Syria and Jordan give "no room for talk about surprises." Asked about the possibility that Shultz might meet PLO members, Shamir's aide said he "cannot imagine" that the secretary of state would meet with PLO members anywhere. On the international conference issue, Shamir had earlier told Jerusalem radio that his own viewpoint is "very close" to that held by Shultz. However, Shultz' proposals for the form and timing of an international "event" were opposed by Shamir when the two men met again on 28 February, Jerusalem radio noted.

Arab Comment—In the wake of Shultz' visit to Amman 27 February, Jordan's AL-RA'Y warned U.S. policymakers against launching "outdated" ideas and stressed that Shultz will not find a single Arab party which is willing to accept "partial or separate" solutions outside the framework of an international conference. In a press statement on Shultz' visit cited by Amman radio, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said the talks with Shultz were "serious and useful," but he reaffirmed Jordan's view on the need for an international conference that must provide for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and assure Palestinian rights.

Reporting on Shultz' 27 February meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus television said the Syrian side found that the ideas brought by Shultz "cannot lead to a just, comprehensive solution." Al-Asad reportedly emphasized Syria's view that an international conference is the best route toward a just, comprehensive peace settlement. The Syrian information minister subsequently stated that a combination of the Palestinian "uprising" and Arab and international solidarity with Palestinian rights will make the United States reassess its ideas and initiate a new dialogue with the governments of the region, according to Damascus radio. A Syrian source cited by Radio Monte Carlo stressed that Syria is still ready to continue dialogue with the United States, even though Shultz' visit has underlined the difference in viewpoints.

Shultz also met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during a 4-hour visit to Cairo 28 February, MENA noted.

Israel: Disturbances in West Bank and Gaza

Nine Arabs were killed and at least 22 injured during further riots over the weekend, according to Jerusalem radio. The disturbances centered mainly in areas near Hebron and Ramallah. While many of the victims were hit when IDF units fired to disperse demonstrations, two of those killed did not sustain bullet wounds, and two others are believed to have been shot by an Israeli settler, who has been arrested.

Regarding the conduct of IDF soldiers, Jerusalem radio broadcast remarks by General 'Amram Mitzna', the head of the IDF's Central Command, who said he was "shocked" by an incident portrayed by CBS television showing IDF soldiers physically abusing two Arab youths near Nabulus. The four soldiers who committed the crime have been arrested, Mitzna' disclosed, and an officer has been suspended. Jerusalem radio subsequently announced that the soldiers have been released pending a decision about what legal proceedings to take against them. In another development, IDF radio noted that the IDF is filing charges against an officer and two soldiers involved in the 5 February "bulldozer incident" when several Arab youths were buried alive. Another IDF soldier is facing charges in connection with the killing of a Gaza resident, YEDI'OT AHARONOT disclosed, adding that senior IDF officers view the case with "extreme gravity."

During a 28 February Cabinet discussion of the security situation, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin resisted demands by several ministers for more drastic measures against rioters and for a ban on media access to the territories, THE JERUSALEM POST noted. A group of Likud ministers had called for greater use of firearms, intimidation, deportations, and blowing up houses of rioters.

Lebanon

Military Developments—The Israeli Navy destroyed a "terrorist" boat in the Tyre area of the Lebanese coast 27 February, Jerusalem radio announced, noting that the vessel was sunk while heading toward Israel on an attack mission. Two men aboard the boat were killed, IDF radio disclosed. While IDF radio also stated that responsibility for the unsuccessful infiltration was claimed by the PFLP, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that Fatah claimed responsibility for sending the boat in an attempt to avenge the recent killing of three PLO officials in Cyprus.

In other developments, IDF radio reported that three "terrorists" were killed in an attack on an SLA post in the south 28 February. Four SLA men were injured. An IDF soldier was injured in an attack on an Israeli vehicle

in the Beaufort Castle area the same day, Jerusalem radio revealed. Further north, four Muslim militiamen were killed during a 27 February attack on SLA positions at Kafr Falus, between Sidon and Jazzin, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Two Norwegian UNIFIL soldiers were seriously wounded by mine explosions in the south 28 February, Jerusalem radio reported.

Hostages—The Amal Movement has been unable to find U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins because he is "apparently no longer in the area," Amal official Da'ud Da'ud stated in remarks cited by the Voice of Lebanon 28 February. On the other hand, UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel subsequently said that UN forces are "convinced" that Higgins is still being held in southern Lebanon, according to Radio Free Lebanon.

As for the two UNRWA employees kidnapped 5 February, the hitherto unknown "Revolutionary Cells" claimed it is holding the two Scandinavians and promised to release them "once their interrogation is finished," AFP reported. The claim was made in a statement to a Western news agency, accompanied by fingerprints of the UNRWA workers.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian missiles fired on Baghdad 29 February hit residential areas, causing civilian casualties and damage, according to a military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An IRGC statement cited by IRNA stressed that the attack was in retaliation for Iraqi bombings which hit "nonmilitary areas" in the suburbs of Tehran, the Kurdish city of Saqqez, Dezful, and Hamadan over the weekend and which resulted in at least 28 civilian deaths. Iraqi communiques carried by Voice of the Masses and Baghdad radios announced that Iraqi warplanes raided Iran's "largest oil refineries" as well as "dens of the scoundrel Khomeyniites" in Dezful and Hamadan. However, a spokesman cited by INA denied that Saqqez was attacked. The Iraqi military also denied that a warplane was shot down over the Gulf 26 February, INA reported.

Furthermore, 28 February Iraqi communiques carried by the radio accused Iran of shelling "purely residential areas" of Basra, Al-Zubayr, Badrah, Khanaqin, and Qal'at Dizah, as a result of which a "great number of citizens" died, and announced that "all Iranian cities will be targets for our missiles and our aircraft as of now and until further notice." The warning came in response to a 27 February threat carried by IRNA to retaliate "powerfully" against "all Iraqi cities except the four holy ones." On the same day Tehran radio had advised residents of Basra and Baghdad to evacuate areas near "economic-military installations." IRNA subsequently reported that Iranian warplanes and artillery attacked Iraqi installations in the south, though a military spokesman cited by the agency denied accusations that Iran attacked civilian areas.

Regarding other combat action, Iraqi warplanes hit the Qotur Bridge near the Iranian border with Turkey, according to a 26 February communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The same communique noted that all helicopter gunships which saw action returned safely to base, thus contradicting a Tehran radio announcement that two enemy helicopters were downed over the southern Majnun Islands. Also in the Gulf, five Iranian boats in a flotilla attempting to approach Al-'Amiq port were sunk 28 February, a statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio declared.

Tehran radio cited an announcement that "major naval maneuvers" will be staged in the Indian Ocean early in the new Islamic year which begins 20 March. The exercises will be aimed at improving "readiness to confront any aggressive move."

Iran

Turkish Premier's Visit—Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and his Turkish counterpart, Turgut Ozal, began talks 28 February on bilateral relations and regional developments, IRNA reported, adding that Ozal and his 35-member delegation will attend a joint economic commission meeting.

Execution of Saboteurs—Seven Iranian men convicted of spying for Iraq and of being responsible for various bombings in Tehran were publicly hanged at the scenes of their crimes, IRNA reported 28 February.

Iraq

Military Cooperation With Egypt—A "new strategy for military cooperation" with Egypt has been devised, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim disclosed in a statement to AL-AHRAM cited by MENA 27 February. The RCC official, who recently completed talks in Cairo, explained that the two countries agreed to rectify economic problems which are "incompatible" with their "close and developing political relations."

Kidnap Victims Released—Three Italian engineers kidnapped by Kurdish rebels last fall were released 27 February, Rome radio reported.

Sudan

Action in South—More than 100 government soldiers were killed when rebels repulsed a 24 February attempt to advance from Juba to Kapoeta, the clandestine SPLA radio reported. Four trucks transporting war materiel were destroyed, the clandestine added, noting that one was "believed to belong to a relief organization." For the government's part, a military communique cited by

SUNA 27 February disclosed that as a result of an armed forces attack on a rebel camp in the Equatoria Region, a large quantity of arms and supplies were captured, including 600 sacks of grain of the type distributed by relief organizations.

Asylum Request—An Ethiopian Airlines pilot on a training flight landed his plane at Khartoum airport and asked for political asylum 27 February, SUNA reported.

Khartoum University Reopened—Classes resumed at Khartoum University 27 February, SUNA announced, recalling that the university had been closed for 3 months as a result of riots and disturbances.

Maghreb

Tunisian Party Renamed—In remarks broadcast by Tunis radio 27 February, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali announced that the ruling party has been renamed the Destourian Democratic Rally (Al-Tajammu' al-Dusturi al-Dimokrati). Ben Ali, who was addressing the concluding session of a Central Committee meeting, expressed his "complete satisfaction" with the committee's work to begin a "new era" in the party's history.

Soviet Message to Morocco—Moroccan King Hassan II received Soviet special envoy Mikhail Sytenko, who delivered a message from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, Rabat radio reported 26 February.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Government has expressed its support for the agreement among the Afghan mujahidin to form an interim administration, an "official source" told SPA 28 February. The government also praised the people and "rightly guided" government of Pakistan for their "sincere efforts" on behalf of Afghan and other Islamic causes, the agency reported.

In response to media reports on Saudi-PLO relations, a "responsible source" reaffirmed to SPA that the bilateral ties are "firmly established and unblemished," adding that the Kingdom continues to support the "struggle" of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Afghanistan

Protocols on the postponement of debt service and on cooperation in the fields of communications and industrial development were signed in Moscow by Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, and Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, Kabul radio reported 27 February.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Reaction to George Shultz Visit

PLO Willing To Have Contacts

LD271436 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1411 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 Feb (KUNA)—The PLO has reiterated its willingness to have contacts with the United States through a delegation composed of Palestinian officials from inside and outside the Palestinian occupied territories.

The announcement was made in a statement issued by a PLO official spokesman which was circulated by the PLO office in Kuwait. The announcement coincides with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's tour of a number of Middle East countries in search of a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

Soviet Message on Shultz Trip

JN271735 Sana'a Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has received an important message from the Soviet leadership. The message deals with the latest political developments in the Middle East in light of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' recent visit to Moscow. The Soviet ambassador to Tunisia delivered the message when brother leader Abu 'Ammar received him at the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

The message reiterated the Soviet Union's principled stand and its sympathy with the Palestinian people in confronting the Israeli repression. It also reaffirmed the importance of holding an international conference for peace under UN auspices and with the participation of the permanent Security Council member states and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The message also noted the importance of holding consultations in the UN Security Council at the level of member states' foreign ministers to be followed by a Security Council session to adopt emergency measures which would secure a just settlement of the Middle East problem.

Brother Abu 'Ammar asked his excellency the ambassador to convey an urgent message to the Soviet leadership. The message deals with the current situation and the mass escalation in our occupied territories vis-a-vis the Israeli iron-fisted policy which is being pursued against our people. Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed the ambassador on the latest political developments on the current stands in the region.

PLO Amman Office Statement

JN271827 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The PLO office in Amman issued a statement today reiterating the PLO's readiness to meet representatives of the U.S. Administration on any level and in any Arab or Western capital. The statement said that the Palestinian delegation to such negotiations should be composed of Palestinian figures from inside as well as outside the occupied territory.

The statement emphasized the sincere desire of the PLO to reach a just and permanent peace, adding that the U.S. Administration's refusal to respond to the positive stand of the PLO demonstrates that the United States is not serious in its efforts to realize a just and permanent peace in the region.

Delegation Being Formed

JN271933 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in Tunis today that the PLO has begun forming a delegation from inside and oustide the occupied territory to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz if he wishes to meet with it.

'Arafat said: We do not reject dialogue with the U.S. Administration but we will not agree to let the United States or any other government choose our delegates or those who represent the Palestinian people.

'Arafat's statement comes following the refusal of all Palestinian figures in the occupied territory to respond to an invitation from the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem to meet with George Shultz.

PLO Statement on Meeting

JN271959 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1904 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the official spokesman for the PLO Executive Committee—date, place not given]

[Text] The PLO reiterates its readiness to meet with the U.S. Administration on any level and in any Arab or foreign capital through a delegation composed of Palestinians from inside as well as outside our occupied homeland in the embodiment of the unity of our people, their cause, and representation. This PLO stand expresses its sincere desire to reach a just and comprehensive peace that will guarantee our people's national rights of freedom and independence.

The U.S. Administration's refusal to respond to this positive stand by the PLO is an essential indication that this administration is not serious in its efforts to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

Sinyurah Comments on Meeting

NC272254 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Hanna Sinyurah, chief editor of the Palestinian paper AL-FAJR, has stressed that senior Palestinian officials in the occupied Arab territory are still ready to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz provided that the U.S. Government does not ignore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights represented in the right to self-determination and the right of the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO, to select the Palestinian delegation to meet with him.

In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM to be published on Sunday, Sinyurah said that the Palestinian personalities who were invited to meet with Shultz through the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem did not refuse to meet with him under PLO pressure or request. The rejection was an expression of a unanimous stand on refusing all U.S. attempts to divide the Palestinian people.

He noted that the Palestinian personalities refused to meet with Shultz because he did not respond to a Palestinian demand for meeting with a delegation representing the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and outside, for the PLO to select this delegation, and for the meeting to be held in Cairo, a European capital, or in Washington. He affirmed that these demands were conveyed to Washington a week ago. The U.S. reply requested that the Palestinians meet with Shultz and then discuss their demands.

It should be recalled that the 15 Palestinian personalities who were invited to meet with Shultz adopted a unanimous stand rejecting the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state.

Sinyurah has called on the Arab countries that Shultz will visit to convince the U.S. Government of the need to convene an international conference with the attendance and participation of the PLO. Sinyurah said: We assert to the Israeli Government that the repressive measures will further fan the uprising. It must recognize the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and agree to convening an international conference with PLO participation.

AL-AHRAM reports that among the personalities that have been selected to hold talks with Shultz are Gaza Mayor Ilyas Frayj, Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, Bayt Sahur Mayor Hanna al-Atrash, Jordanian Senate Acting Speaker Hikmat al-Masri, AL-FAJR Chief Editor Hanna Sinyurah, AL-QUDS Chief Editor Mahmud Abd al-Zulum, Nabulus economist Sa'id Kan'an, Sari Jad'un from Ramallah, and Sari Nusaybah, a professor at Bir Zayt University.

Despite the fact these personalities had refused to meet with Shultz, AP reports that U.S. diplomats in Jerusalem are (?trying) to arrange for another meeting between Shultz and the Palestinian leaders of the West Bank and Gaza Strip before the end of Shultz' current tour.

Warning Issued Against Meeting

JN281304 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] This morning Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, told us the U.S. delegation in Jerusalem tried to lure some Palestinian personalities into traveling to Cairo to meet with Shultz there. 'Abd Rabbuh asserted that the PLO warns against this maneuver and emphasizes its stand which rejects a meeting with Shultz. The PLO stresses that any meeting should be held with an official Palestinian delegation assigned by the PLO, he added.

'Arafat Holds News Conference

JN281848 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has said that our people will continue their struggle and uprising, one wave after another, until the Israeli occupation ends. He pointed out this is a decision to which we adhere from top to bottom.

At a news conference in Tunis yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar said the proposals U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has carried with him to our occupied homeland are new Camp David, condominium, and self-administration plans. He pointed out that Shultz is searching for an Arab party to participate in the crime against our people.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Yesterday a decision was issued preventing meeting with Shultz. This does not mean we are against dialogue with the United States. However, we refuse to authorize the U.S. Administration or any other side to represent the Palestinian people. He said the delegation must be appointed by the Palestinian people and leadership. Therefore, 'Arafat said: We are ready to meet with Shultz or others through a delegation appointed by the Palestinian people's leadership. He added: We have said we are ready to meet with Shutlz through the delegation appointed by the PLO in any Arab or foreign state, even in the United States itself.

He pointed out that the delegation represents all the Palestinian people. He said: It is a delegation representing the unity of the Palestinian people and their representation. This is what we have told Shultz several times. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: I say this not to be understood as trying to place obstacles in the way of a just and comprehensive peace. Our objective is to

achieve a just and comprehensvie peace that guarantees the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights in accordance with international legitimacy and resolutions.

Replying to a question on whether there is coordination among the PLO and the Arab capitals that Shultz will visit, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We are in contact with those brothers through available means of coordination, especially since there is a seven-member committee that is moving with us in all directions, including the U.S. Administration and its envoys in the region.

Replying to a question on whether he believes Shultz' visit will escalate tension in the occupied territories, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Undoubtedly, because the U.S. Government still ignores the facts of the region, namely the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. We call for international legitimacy; however, it seems this U.S. Administration insists on a continuation of the occupation and granting the Palestinians only a condominium or bantustan as in South Africa, something they have expressed through various channels. What they want is only self-administration and an Israeli withdrawal from the densely populated areas.

However, what they actually seek is to continue their control over the entire region through strategic miltiary hotebds. Not only this, but also a full rejection of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, which is a sacred right for all peoples of the world. They also reject an independent Palestinian state and refuse to end the Israeli occupation. Moreover, they reject an independent Palestinian delegation to the international conference. 'Arafat said: What they seek is a ceremonial inauguration of the international conference and not an effective conference. Above all this, they say no to the PLO. Who can accept this conspiracy against our people? We have said five noes until the end of the occupation.

Replying to a question on U.S. conditions to meet with a PLO delegation such as recognizing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We will respond to the invitation without conditions. I said at the UN Human Rights Committee meetings a week ago and for the fourth time that we accept all UN resolutions in accordance with the PNC resolution, including Resolutions 242 and 338, because international legitimacy is an indivisible whole. However, the Israelis only accept some resolutions. They even accept some parts of resolutions and reject other parts.

Asked what the PLO plans to do to reply to the repressive Israeli measures, he said: I have issued clear orders to our representatives at the United Nations to inform the UN Secretary general, the UN Security Council president, the head of the UN committee for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, the International Red Cross, the UN Human Rights Committee, and other international institutions and organizations of the details of the Israeli terrorism against our people. There is a possibility of requesting a meeting of the UN Security Council.

Asked about the Israeli repression, he said: I will use the same description the Israeli ambassador in Paris used. He said this is an abominable act. I add this is a mania of brutality and barbarism.

Asked whether he expects an EEC states initiative, Abu 'Ammar said: Yes, I expect them to assume their moral, ethical, and political responsibilities toward the Middle East. Europe must know that its interests are closely associated with the Middle East and that what takes place in the Middle East affects Europe positively or negatively. Therefore, it is in Europe's interest to embark on an initiative because the failure to achieve a solution will further escalate the volcano and the tornado.

Asked about the Algerian mediation between the PLO and Syria which began 10 days ago with a visit to Damascus by the Algerian foreign minister, he said: This is not the beginning because the visit is only a step within this framework. The beginning came during the short meeting which was held between me and President al-Asad at the Amman summit in the presence of President Chadli Bendjedid. Following this meeting, Syria blessed the lifting of Amal's siege on the camps.

'Arafat on Shultz Tour

JN290814 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] In an interview with French television Antenna-5, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday condemned the current mission of George Shultz. 'Arafat asserted that according to precise information available to him the basic aim of the U.S. secretary of state is to undermine and completely extinguish the Palestinian people's uprising.

In the interview 'Arafat expressed readiness to talk with people who have courage and a sense of responsibility, if such people can be found, in order to participate in the efforts to establish peace. He emphasized that the PLO adheres to international legality and agrees to all UN resolutions. He said the PLO emphasizes the need to turn to the Security Council and initiate negotiations aimed at ending the occupation and placing Palestinian territory under UN supervision.

Al-Quds Radio Views Shultz Tour

JN271132 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0736 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] George Shultz' tour this time appears to be a journey to the unknown. Shultz, the architect of the 17 May agreement [between Lebanon and Israel], which was destined to be stillborn, is afraid of a new defeat. He

knows that his current tour was not part of the planning of the Camp David program and the normalization policy. Consequently, the remarks by the U.S. secretary of state, in which he admitted the existence of wide-scale doubts in his peace mission, reflect U.S. fears of sudden developments which have to be faced by the U.S. Administration, which had been confident about the ability of its allies in the area to tame the revolutionary will of the Arab masses and about its own ability to implement U.S. plans and projects.

When the popular revolution in Palestine succeeded in defeating all those who had wagered it would be a limited action and succeeded in keeping its fire raging month after month, President Reagan's administration finds itself unable to put forward a clear idea of ways to face the new situation in Palestine.

Our prior knowledge of the aims of the U.S. moves notwithstanding, we at the same time emphasize that Shultz—who had asserted in his statements that he is carrying a mixture of various ideas—finds himself compelled to pause and catch his breath and seek a temporary truce so the Zionist entity and its reactionary allies will have another opportunity to reshuffle the cards so they will able to destroy our Palestinian people's continuing revolution.

President Husni Mubarak's initiative in which he called for a truce and talks on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had the same motives and aims.

Now, Shultz comes to use all the influence the United States can muster in the area to rescue the Zionist entity from the consequences of the sweeping popular revolution in Palestine before that revolution spreads to other capitals and affects other regimes. Shultz knows well that no power can curb the advance and determination to win freedom of those who used stones as weapons to face the suppression of many years duration under the yoke of the Zionist enemy. The masses of the popular revolution proclaimed their uprising using stones as weapons after the others had exhausted their weapons and the futility of the policies wagering on political plans and solutions was clearly demonstrated.

Shultz summed up the result of his tour when he said: I believe some opportunities exist. Even though such opportunities are small, they deserve the attempt. Let us suppose I will not succeed, then that is part of my work.

We say to Shultz: Yes, that is your work, your work alone. You are correct in believing that the opportunities for success are not only small, but lacking. You will find only the stones of our people, who have chosen their path.

Al-Quds Radio Salutes Boycott

JN271210 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1020 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: The family of Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the Land and man, salutes all the men of Palestine who abided by its call and by the statement of the [unified national] leadership in Palestine not to meet with the envoy of U.S. imperialism, Mr George Shultz. It salutes all the men of Palestine who appreciated the effectiveness of a unified stand by our people in the face of the U.S.-made weapons used by the Zionist terrorists against our great people.

A greeting of appreciation and love to all the men of Palestine who abided by the will of the people, that great people who are forging miracles. God is with us. Victory is near. Together along the path of liberating the land and man.

Al Quds. The Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man. Test transmission.

Shultz Brought 'Nothing New'

JN272046 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1737 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of our great Palestinian people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The most eloquent description of the condition of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz while he was waiting in vain in the lobby of the American Colony hotel, in the suburbs of the city of Jerusalem yesterday, is that when he did not find a single Palestinian to meet with him he was forced to address the walls to avoid the echo of his words in the uproar of the raging, escalating uprising.

In fact, the expectations of the PLO regarding Shultz' tour and his plans, which he carries in his pouch, have come true. After all of the clamorous propaganda that accompanied Shultz' arrival in the region and in occupied Palestine, it has become clear that George Shultz has brought nothing new and that in his pouch he only carries the same old American language, the same rejected U.S. plans, and the same discarded U.S. advice.

In the confrontation of all this, the Palestinian reply yesterday was strong, clear, and represented by a comprehensive boycott, an overall escalation of the uprising throughout the entire Palestinian territory, and heroic militant actions of clashes in all fields. This strong, clear Palestinian reply is the result of the accumulation of long experience in our consciousness, the militant experience of our generations, and our entrenched Palestinian constants which no one can shake whether through the force of violence, terrorism, and crimes of the Zionists or through the temptations of the deluding maneuvers of the Amercians, the Zionist allies.

The inescapable question now is: If this is our Palestinian reply to the U.S. Administration's empty plans, then when will the Americans hear the comprehensive Arab reply which will prevent them from trying to return the ball to our court? Until this Arab reply is finalized—we are confident it will come one day more violently than all of our enemies expect—the people of the uprising and its gigantic generations will continue our confrontations, escalate clashes, and add more fuel to the fire because this is our only way to wrest our legitimate rights to freedom, independence, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. Revolution until victory!

Algeria

Bendjedid Views Arab Stand on Palestinians

LD282340 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1935 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Speech by President Chadli Bendjedid at a ceremony to install the provincial party commissions charged with preparing for the Sixth FLN Congress in Algiers on 28 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, I am pleased to attend with you today the preparation of the work of the national committee preparing for the sixth party congress. [passage omitted]

Naturally, the problems of the Arab Maghreb do not completely preoccupy us or prevent us from dealing with our Arab East and the tragedy being experienced by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. When viewing the abominable manifestations of the Israeli acts against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the human being feels regret and bitterness. However, we say: Where is the Arab stand? What will be the end to this Arab silence? The Arab world must move and shoulder its full responsibility. Algeria will exert all of its capability to support and to mobilize the vital forces of the Arab nation at the side of the Palestinian people.

Israel's insolence is a challenge to world public opinion. Israel commits serious crimes against the Palestinians while the world stands as a spectator. However, we wonder about the attitude of the Arab states—we do not say the Arab nation. It is imperative that some initiatives be adopted, at least an Arab summit to study this situation; however, it should not be for the sole purpose of registering. There should be some measures and stands taken. [applause]

Algeria is prepared for any sacrifice in supporting and backing the Palestinian revolution, whether this sacrifice is political, economic, or something else. We are saddened when we see a situation where some countries' regimes and economic institutions are dealing with Israel and backing Israel. Regrettably, those institutions or banks which are dealing with Israel have a lot of Arab funds. Arab funds are supporting the Zionist entity against our Palestinian brothers, instead being directed toward developing Arab countries and helping the weak Arab countries.

All of these funds are frozen in banks in many of these countries which are helping Israel, so the companies and the banks are helping Israel. Inevitably this fact will one day be put before us as Arabs and as people responsible for ourselves and for the Arab society; consequently, we should reconsider the way we deal with Israel's allies and friends. [applause]

We can see the Israeli practices against the Palestinians, and we cannot stay silent; we will never be silent, whether within an Arab framework or within an international framework. Algeria, as I have said, welcomes any move and any action geared toward raising the word of the Palestinian revolution, and raising the view of the Arab nation both in international arenas and within our relations with many states which back and support Israel. Therefore, we say that Algeria will do its utmost to ensure an Arab move aimed at conveying and raising the Arabs' view as states, and as a nation with other states, and particularly with those countries which help and support Israel.

Naturally, what Algeria has done is not out of consideration for itself. I believe we have tried to do our duty and return the obligation as a people and a state which has known such experience, and we will continue to support the Palestinian issue, regardless of the costs at the Arab and the international levels. We say at the Arab or the international levels, because it seems that the vision is not clear as to the Arab stand vis-a-vis the fate of the Palestinian people regarding their self-determination and their independent state. So far, this is not clear even to the Arabs themselves.

As for us, our stand and our view on this subject are clear. We regard the Palestinian issue as the self-determination of the Palestinian people and the setting up of their independent state. Naturally, the idea of a federal system with any neighboring state is a matter that concerns the Palestinian people, in the first place, and the country with which the Palestinians want to do anything. [passage omitted]

Chad

April 10-12 Summit Date Set for Resolving Aozou

AB261438 Paris AFP in English 1424 GMT 26 Feb

[Text] Libreville, Feb 26 (AFP)—Leaders of the countries engaged in the territorial dispute between Chad and Libya are to hold a summit in the Senegalese capital Dakar from April 10-12.

Gabon's Foreign Minister Martin Bongo said here Friday the summit of the ad hoc committee set up by the Organisation of African Unity would be preceded by meetings of its (?geographic) and legal experts and of the six-nations body's foreign ministers.

Gabon chairs the committee. The other members are Algeria, Cameroon, Mozambique, Nigeria and Senegal.

An OUA-mediated ceasefire has held since September. Libyan troops have occupied the Aozou Strip in northermost Chad for a dozen years.

Libyan Warplanes Overfly Localities 27 Feb

AB272014 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The meeting of the heads of state of the OAU ad hoc committee member countries in charge of the Chad-Libya conflict will be held from 10 to 12 April this year in Dakar. [passage omitted] Meanwhile, the anachronistic and bloodthirsty regime of Tripoli, which fears an unfavorable verdict, is continuing its provocations against our country. Libyan Air Force planes this morning overflew the localities of (Zoungiri) at 0625 hours, Bardai at 0630 hours, and (Oum II) at 0635 hours.

Egypt

Shultz Arrives in Cairo for Short Visit

NC281217 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a short visit that will last several hours. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Shultz at the airport. During his stay, Shultz will meet with President Husni Mubarak and a number of Egyptian officials.

Shultz' visit is part of a tour of the region which has taken him to Jordan, Israel, and Syria.

Mubarak-Shultz Meeting

NC281335 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a session of talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the president's office in Heliopolis this afternoon.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs; and 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egypt's ambassador to Washington, attended the talks.

Also present for the U.S. side were: U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Frank Wisner; Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy; State Department Spokesman Charles Redman; and Wat T. Cluverius, deputy assistant secretary of state and roving ambassador to the Middle East.

Departure for Israel Noted

NC281610 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Cairo this afternoon for Israel, following a 4-hour visit to Cairo during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Shultz also conducted talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who saw him off at the airport.

Mubarak Addresses Students on Shultz, Uprising

JN281401 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has called on the United States to present new ideas. He said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz should come to the region with new ideas compatible with the current phase through which the region is passing. This came in a statement which President Mubarak made during his meeting today with the students and professors of the Suez Canal University in Ismailia.

President Mubarak said the contents of the third part of the Camp David accords are no longer consistent with the changes which have imposed themselves on the arena.

Replying to a question on the Iraq-Iran war, President Mubarak said: We are advocates of peace and we are very eager to stop the bloodshed caused by the war between Iraq and Iran.

President Mubarak pointed out that the Gulf's security is part of Egyptian security. He affirmed Egypt does not have any forces outside its territory.

President Mubarak spoke about Egypt's stand on the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation. He emphasized Egypt's firm stand on the Palestine question which, he said, is represented by earnest action to preserve the rights of the Palestinian people.

During his meeting with the students of Suez Canal University, President Husni Mubarak referred to the interlinked economic relations and interests among world nations. This, he explained, makes it difficult for any state to live in isolation from the community of world nations.

During this meeting, President Mubarak reviewed the projects of the first 5-year development plan. He affirmed the method of scientific planning which Egypt has pursued in the proper exploitation of its resources in accordance with society's priorities and needs.

President Mubarak pointed in this regard to the achievements in the fields of industry, agriculture, energy, roads, communications, telephones, and sewerage.

The president said the Abu Sultan electricity plant, which was built during the first 5-year plan, cost more than 1 billion pounds.

During his meeting with the professors and students of the Suez Canal University, President Husni Mubarak referred to the housing problem. He explained that about 1 million housing units were built. He asserted that the housing problem still requires more efforts before it will be resolved.

Later, a dialogue took place with the students during which President Mubarak answered questions. He explained to the students the policy of economic reform and Egypt's relationship with international economic institutions, as well as the talks with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The president affirmed in this respect Egypt's commitment to an economic policy that is commensurate with the society's interests, resources, and capabilities.

Regarding the increase in prices, President Mubarak said Egypt is no different from the rest of the world and comes within the world price spiral.

President Mubarak affirmed in this regard that curbing prices and creating a balance between wages and prices is linked to the real increase in production.

In his replies to the students' questions, the president also explained Egypt's stand on the Palestine question and the uprising in the occupied territory.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Views Shultz Visit, Peace

JN282016 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Feb 88 p 6

[Editorial: "The Truth Is for Those Who Seek It"]

[Text] With the start of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to Israel, the Palestinians have continued their general strike all over the occupied territories. This is a message from the stone-throwing heroes to a representative of a world superpower. Through this message these heroes will convey to Shultz, who is starting a tour of the region to present U.S. proposals, their determination to continue to struggle until they regain their legitimate rights as part of a just and comprehensive peace.

Perhaps the Palestinians' strike will prompt Shultz to see, just as many eyes throughout the world have seen, the deteriorating situation, as the Israelis are skillfully quelling the Palestinian struggle with methods that go beyond tortures known throughout history.

While the tangible positive aspect of the Shultz tour is represented by his statements that he will discuss the form of a final settlement of the Middle East dispute, this positive aspect should be translated into realistic new ideas, as declared by President Husni Mubarak before the start of Shultz' visit. This is because the old autonomy formulas can no longer be applied as realities have created a new situation.

It is useful to point out that raising peace slogans by some parties should not distract us from proceeding on the path of establishing a genuine peace. It is insufficient for Shamir to say that the achievement of peace occupies a leading position on the list of Israeli interests. However, it remains to be said that oppression, deportations, arrests, and burying Palestinians alive will not achieve peace, but will only aggravate the volatile situation. The only road to peace is through convening an international conference on the basis of land in exchange for peace. This should be clear to all parties.

Papers Comment on Shultz Tour

NC270518 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—In their Saturday editions, Cairo newspapers comment on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' current tour of the region and call on the United States to adopt a new policy to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. Such a policy should be linked to the present reality and go beyond the concept of administrative self-rule for the occupied territories.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that despite the difficulty of passing a final judgment on Shultz' ideas and the results of his shuttle tour, we can deduce several important factors which might help accelerate the drive for peace. Shultz has already declared that his country is convinced of the need for this drive to continue.

The first factor is the unified Arab stand and agreement to discuss proposals for a permanent and just peace and a comprehensive settlement in an international conference sponsored by the United Nations. The permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the conflict will participate in this conference on an equal footing.

The second factor is the development in the U.S. view of the PLO and its making one step forward and then two steps back. At the same time it considers a Shultz-'Arafat meeting, the United States also extends a formal invitation to 15 Palestinian personalities in the occupied territories to meet with Shultz, although it is aware that this idea is in contradiction with the desire of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says for the U.S. conviction to be converted into practical steps, the United States should adopt a new policy linked to the current reality and going beyond the idea of administrative self-rule. If a comprehensive and just peace is achieved, it will be considered the greatest accomplishment of the Reagan era.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM says Shultz has started his tour with Israel because it is the main obstacle to any proposed solution. Matters would be easier if these difficulties could be overcome before he resumes his tour in the Arab capitals.

In its comment, AL-AHRAM says Washington believes there is more work to be done in Tel Aviv in terms of discussion and persuasion than in the other capitals of the region.

It adds that this does not mean that Israel, with all the conflicting statements issued there whether in Shultz' absence or presence, has become the center of U.S. activity. It basically means Washington is searching for its conscience first. By trying to find out its close ally's stand, Washington wants to clear its conscience in history before the presidential elections in November.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says: We do not want to discourage any efforts to solve the chronic problem. We only want to show the margins of activity vis-a-vis the issue. We also want to indicate that the U.S. activity, regardless of its beginning or end, looks at the issue from its own perspective. We only hope that it will not make mistakes in its steps or in its short-and long-term calculations.

'Positive Sign' Noted

NC271642 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: Shultz' Middle East Tour Amid Pessimism and Doubts]]

[Text] Amid the doubts surrounding George Shultz' tour of the Middle East, the fears that preceded his tour, and Shamir's rejection of his proposals, particularly those on giving an impetus to the peace efforts or holding the international conference, one question is continually asked: Can Shultz' current tour advance the cause of the peace process, or will the situation remain as it is?

Shultz faced strong opposition to his proposals during his first stop in the region. He will be received tomorrow by President Mubarak and will present to him the new U.S. proposals for pushing the peace process forward and for ending the deteriorating situation in the region, which is a result of the events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These events have broken the stagnation in which the Palestinian issue was mired, propelling it to the top of events in the region and leading to this great international interest which is clearly manifested by the present U.S. efforts.

The United States has dispatched its envoys to the region to explore and propose new ideas on ending this situation. Shultz' current tour, which follows his visit to the Soviet Union and his meeting with Soviet officials, during which they discussed a number of issues, including the Middle East problem, underlines this interest. It is true that the two sides did not agree on the Middle East. It is also true that while the Soviet Union supports holding an international peace conference, the United States insists on certain conditions for holding it with the Soviet Union's participation. Still, we can sense a positive sign from the talks, to prepare and work seriously for solving the Middle East problem.

Extreme tension accompanied Shultz' talks in Israel. Shamir stuck to his stand of rejecting the notion of an international conference and insisted on keeping separate the events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the initiatives toward resolving the Middle East problem. However, Shultz said after the visit that Palestinian participation in the peace process is vital, that the Israelis and the Palestinians have to move toward each other, and that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 represent the basis for comprehensive negotiations that should be started immediately so as to achieve quick results. These statements show a new U.S. understanding of the real Palestinian role, its importance, and the need for Palestinian participation in any attempt toward a solution.

Egypt has always stressed this point, declaring that no solution to the Middle East problem can be reached without the Palestinian people's participation, as this people has the first right to self-determination and the first and final word on solving its problems.

Abu Ghazalah To Visit U.S. in March

NC262332 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—In its Saturday edition, the weekly newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports that Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, will pay a visit to the United States in March.

During the visit, Abu Ghazalah will hold talks with U.S. Administration officials, including Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci and several congressmen.

Petroleum Minister Discusses Production

NC291050 Cairo MENA in English 1020 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 29 (MENA)—Chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of oil affirmed today that Egypt's oil production for 1988 amounted to 310 rpt 310 million barrels which is sufficient for consumption up till the end of the current year without touching the country's oil reserve that has increased this year to 350 rpt 350 million barrels.

Addressing the National Democratic Party's Industry and Energy Committee, Qandil said the strategic plan for the coming three years aims at realizing a gas reserve to be sufficient for consumption along the coming 25 rpt 25 years.

Natural gas production this year amounted to nine trillion cubic meters, Qandil said, while the surplus of the oil sector has reached 700 rpt 700 million dollars for the current year.

Addressing the committee, Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, said 90 rpt 90 per cent of equipment needed for the electricity networks was locally provided, while studies are underway to manufacture all needs of electricity equipment locally.

Libya

U.S. 'Interference' in Panama Denounced

LD272106 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] This evening, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the ambassadors of Latin American states accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and informed them of the Great Jamahiriyah's stand on the flagrant U.S. interference in Panama's internal affairs and the resulting threat to the freedom, independence, and sovereignty of Panama.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed the need to support the struggle of the Panamanian people for their independence and sovereignty according to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

A source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison made the following statement: It has become clear that the Republic of Panama is being subjected to interference in its internal affairs and to a direct threat from the United States, which has adopted official state terrorism as its means of dealing with the peoples of the world.

The U.S. campaigns of misinformation deceive nobody and cannot help the U.S. Administration conceal the real reason behind its campaigns against Panama—tightening its control and hegemony over the Republic of Panama to ensure its use as a base for aggression against the peoples of Latin America and for undermining the progressive regime there.

This behavior by the U.S. Administration not only amounts to interference in the internal affairs of Panama, but is also a disregard of the peoples of the Third World and the Nonaligned Movement and a violation of the United Nations' principles and charter.

The Great Jamahiriyah, while strongly denouncing this flagrant interference by the United States in Panama's internal affairs, supports the struggle of the Panamanian people for preserving their freedom and sovereignty, and for the recovery of their canal from U.S. control.

It calls upon the countries of the Third World as well as all the nonaligned and progressive forces in the world to deplore this U.S. terrorism against the Panamanian people, to support the steadfastness of Panama in the face of U.S. tyrrany, and for the protection of Panama's independence, freedom, and sovereignty over the whole of its national territory.

Sudan's Taj al-Din Arrives in Tripoli 27 Feb

LD272021 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr 'Ali Hassan Taj al-Din, the member of the Sudanese State Council, and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to great Jamahiriyah.

Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, headed the party welcoming Dr Taj al-Din and his delegation. Also taking part in the welcoming ceremony were the secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, the secretary of the affairs of vocational congresses at the General People's Congress, a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and the ambassador of Sudan and members of the Sudanese Embassy to Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr 'Ali Hassan Taj al-Din expressed, in a statement to JANA, his best wishes for good health and safety for the leader of the revolution.

He said: I am carrying with me to the leader the greetings of his brothers in Sudan.

Jabir Hosts Banquet

LD281219 Tripoli JANA in English 0932 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 28, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, held last night a banquet in honour of Dr 'Ali Hassan Taj al-Din, the member of the State Council in sisterly Sudan and the delegation in his company.

Jabir, Taj al-Din Begin Talks

LD282027 Tripoli JANA in English 1839 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, today received Dr 'Ali Hassan Taj al-din, the member of the State Council in sisterly Sudan.

Defense Team Formed for Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir

LD271602 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The General Vocational Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah has decided to set up a defense team composed of Libyan Arab lawyers to act in defense of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and his colleagues and to join the defense team of the Egyptian Lawyers Union.

In a statement the Congress called on Arab lawyers' unions to set up a defense team. It also appealed to Arab lawyers to join the defense team of the Egyptian Lawyers Union and to allow international judicial organizations to attend the trial sessions.

The Congress also called on the Yugoslav Government not to extradite Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and his cousin to the Egyptian regime. He called on the Egyptian Lawyers Union to introduce measures to consult the case file by sending it a copy of the file. [passage omitted]

General People's Congress Called for 2 March

LD272151 Tripoli Television service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Congress has issued decree No 18 of 1397 after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 1988 AD, inviting the General People's Congress to convene. Here is the text of the decree:

The General People's Congress, after considering Law No 9 of 1984 regarding the organization of people's congresses, and General People's Congress' decree No 10 of 1987 AD regarding the issuance of the general charter of people's congresses, has decided:

1. The General People's Congress is invited to convene for its 14th ordinary session at 0900 on Wednesday, 14 Rajab 1397, after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 2 March 1988 AD, at the conference hall in Ras Lanuf, the municipality of the Gulf of Sidra.

[Signed] The Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

Morocco

King Hassan II Receives Soviet Special Envoy

LD261535 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Today at noon at the Royal Palace in Marrakech, His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, who came to Morocco carrying a special message for King Hassan II from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki; Advisor to the King Mr Ahmed Reda Guedira; and the Soviet ambassador to Rabat.

Discuss USSR Afghan Withdrawal

LD271249 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Rabat, Feb 27 (MAP)—The Soviet Union will start withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan on May 15, with the withdrawal process extending over ten months, Soviet Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador Mikhail Sytenko said Friday in Rabat.

Sytenko had arrived in Morocco on Wednesday was received Friday by King Hassan II whom he delivered a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. [sentence as received]

During a press conference here yesterday, the Soviet envoy said he had explained to King Hassan his country's position concerning a settlement of the Afghan conflict and that the sovereign had appreciated the Soviet decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Noting that the withdrawal timetable "corresponds to Pakistan's demands", Sytenko stressed the necessity for Pakistan and Afghanistan to conclude an agreement at the end of their negotiations.

The conclusion of the agreement is scheduled for next March in Geneva and is to provide for the return of Afghan refugees to their country, the respect of the refugees' rights, non-interference in the country's internal affairs and the setting up of a mechanism for controlling the application of the accords concluded.

The Soviet official warned in this respect against attempts to sabotage the process underway. He said if the agreement was not concluded as expected, it would have negative consequences on the settlement of other regional conflicts.

He said rumours about the constitution of an Afghan government in exile formed mainly by opposing parties were "very dangerous" because such an initiative "aims at sabotaging efforts underway for settling the conflict, all the more so since certain parties are seeking, for economic and political reasons, to prolong the state of war".

Sytenko also opposed the idea of creating an Afghan transition government "because it will complicate things with new conditions, thus hindering the conclusion of the Pakistani-Afghan accords already elaborated".

He said his country had no intention of imposing a socialist regime on Afghanistan but is "for a neutral and non-aligned regime based on national reconcilation" and was "against interference in the internal affairs of this neighboring country".

Tunisia's Prime Minister Arrives 28 Feb
LD290127 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived this evening in Morocco carrying a message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to His Majesty King Hassan II.

The Tunisian official was welcomed by Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki, the governor of Marrakech Province, and a number of civil and military personalities at Al-Manara-Marrakech Airport.

This is the second visit to Morocco for Mr Hedi Baccouche since his appointment as prime minister. The Moroccan prime minister paid a visit to Tunisia earlier this month.

Portuguese President Arrives on 'Private Visit'
LD271302 Rabat MAP in English 1203 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Marrakech, Feb 27 (MAP)—Portuguese President Mario Soares arrived here Friday afternoon on a private visit to Morocco.

President Soares, who is accompanied by daughter Isabelle and head of his Cabinet Nunes Barada, was welcomed by Premier Azeddine Laraki and the governor of Marrakech.

Sudan

Taj al-Din To Visit Libya on 'Secret' Mission
JN261134 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb., 26, (SUNA)—A daily newspaper has quoted what it called informed sources as saying the State Council member Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din will today or tomorrow "fly to Libya in a mission described by the paper as secret. [quotation marks as received]

The paper AL-USBU' said today the upcoming visit of President Hissein Habre of Chad to Sudan is expected to figure prominently among the issues to be reviewed by Taj al-Din and the Libyan officials.

The paper said Taj al-Din has been shuttling between Khartoum, Ndjamena, and Tripoli within Sudan's efforts to settle the Chadian-Libyan conflict.

No official confirmation is available about the paper's report.

Libya Orders 'Withdrawal' of Diplomatic Mission
NC291216 Cairo MENA in English 1200 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 29 (MENA)—Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is said to have ordered the withdrawal of the Libyan diplomatic mission from Khartoum following reports on the closure of the Libyan Cultural Council in the Sudanese capital and the imposition of a ban on the entry of some Libyan delegations.

AL-USBU' newspaper which reported the news also said that Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, a member of the ruling state's Supreme Council has paid a secret visit to Libya to tackle the deteriorating situation. Dr. Taj al-Din's office denied the report.

Sudanese authoities have earlier prevented officials from various countries from taking part in the first conference of pro-Libyan revolutionary committees which was held in Khartoum recently.

Ethiopian Pilot Lands Plane in Khartoum 27 Feb

Seeks To Escape 'Oppression'
JN281019 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 28 (SUNA)—An Ethiopian civilian pilot yesterday landed with his plane on Khartoum airport and asked for political asylum.

The trainee pilot Kabri Fozher, 22 years, who was on an ordinary training flight of Ethiopia Airlines inside his country, has changed his way and tried to land on Al-Damazin town, south-eastern Sudan and not far from the common borders with Ethiopia, but he couldn't because the airport is under maintenance.

The Ethiopian authorities inquired about the plane and it had been told that the plane had landed, but the pilot asked for political asylum for reasons, he said, dealing with the political situation in his country "where the ruling regime is practicing suppression and oppression"

AL-USBU' newspaper has quoted the pilot, who is a Tigrai, as saying that he tried several times to flee from Ethiopia through Kenya before joining the Ethiopian Airlines but he was captured and returned back to his country.

It is to be noted that this is the second incident of its kind within six months period.

Granted Political Asylum

JN281751 Khartoum SUNA in english 1733 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 28 (SUNA)—An Ethiopian Cessna plane pilot who landed with his plane here yesterday is due to be granted political asylum to which he had applied earlier, a security source announced today.

The source said the Ethiopian Government has contacted its Sudanese counterpart inquiring about the fate of the pilot and asking the return of the plane to Addis Ababa.

The source explained that steps are underway to return the plane to Ethiopia.

It further asserted that the pilot has explained his escape to Sudan as due to "harassments" by the Ethiopian system which he described "a system of repression and terrorism."

It is understood that this is the third time in a period of 6 months an Ethiopian pilot has flown to Sudan and asked for political asylum.

Army Attacks Rebel Camp, Seizes Arms, Supplies

JN271757 Khartoum SUNA in Egnlish 1730 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 27 (SUNA)—The Armed Forces have captured 600 dura bags from the same varieties distributed by relief organizations in Equatoria Region, a communique issued by Armed Forces said Saturday.

The communique made it clear the Armed Forces had seized these quantities after an offensive against the rebels' Wendro [name as received] camp in Equatoria region where great quantities of arms and supplies were captured.

Security Tightened To Prevent Infiltration

JN271024 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 27 (SUNA)—The Security Council in the Eastern Region has taken tight security measures to stop the influx of refugees and the infiltration of the rebel forces of Col John Garang, the daily AL-SIYASAH issued here today reported.

Quoting a security source in the region, the daily confirmed that the tightened security plan was put into effect to face the violation by foreign planes of the Sudanese airspace.

The Sudanese airspace, according to news reports circulated here recently, was violated by some foreign planes among them Israeli planes.

The source stressed the necessity of evacuating the towns of the region from refugees.

SPLA Says 100 Soldiers Killed in Fighting

EA271627 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpts] On 24 February 1988 at 0830, our Sudan local time, the enemy attempted for a second time to advance from Juba to Torit and from there to Kapoeta. The enemy was engaged at Bilinyang, 12 km from Juba, by Bright Star's forces of Central South Sudan Zonal Command Task Force One, Central South Sudan Task Force Two, and Axis One Kawkab Task Force One, all under operational command of Alternate Commander Marko Maciec and overall command of Commander Kuol Manyang Juk, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and a zonal commander of Central South Sudan.

The enemy was repulsed back into Juba after sustaining very heavy casualties in men and material. More than 100 enemy soldiers, including two officers, were killed and their bodies left behind in the field of battle.

One large transit goods truck, No 1931, believed to belong to a relief organization, was completely consumed by fire along with its contents which included ammunition, radio sets and a big number of GM-3 and AKM rifles. Three other trucks were destroyed. [passage omitted]

In this regard, the alternate member of SPLM/SPLA political-military high command and a zonal commander of Central South Sudan Zonal Command, Commander Kuol Manyang Juk, reiterated his appeal to the army, police, prison, game [as heard] and youth in Juba town to join the SPLA as well as make Juba ungovernable.

The commander in chief and chairman, SPLM/SPLA, has conveyed his revolutionary congratulations to all officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Bright Star campaign.

Official Says SPLM Contacts 'Difficult'

JN281041 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 28 (SUNA)—A member of the three-man committee assigned to carry out contacts with the rebels of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has said that "the continuation of peace efforts has become difficult under current circumstances"

Dr Taysir Muhammad Ahmad pointed out Saturday that he and his colleagues had found it very difficult to carry on with their mission which had been agreed upon politically and nationally, amidst accusations of treasons directed to those who make peace contacts with the rebels.

He added that conflicting official announcements on peace talks would create suitable atmosphere for the enemies of peace and stability to wage their hysterical campaign.

Dr Taysir indicated that he had been subjected to inconveniences by certain official circles, but he did not elaborate further on the issue saying that such practices could abort peace efforts.

Relief Aid 'May' Arrive in Malakal 27 Feb
JN271208 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1037 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 (SUNA)—The AL-SUDANI newspaper today reported that relief steamers heading to Malakal may arrive in the city today after the Armed Forces units escorting these steamers repulsed several attacks by rebel forces.

AL-SUDANI sources pointed out that the steamers, loaded with food supplies, will enter the city late today, and that the city is ready to receive the steamers.

Anya Nya II Warns Against Hindering Relief
JN271209 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Nairobi 27 Feb (SUNA)—Anya Nya 2 movement warned Sudan People's Liberation Army "SPLA" against hindering steamers moves which carry relief supplies for Malakal town, Upper Nile Province capital"

In a statement issued by Anya Nya 2 representative to Eastern Africa, ordered its troops in Al-Rank [name as received] town to help the Armed Forces in protecting these steamers.

The statement urged the international organisations to condemn the action which aims at eradicating southerners.

The SPLA claimed recently that it sank three steamers carrying food supplies for southern regions.

Anya Nya II Says 'Dissension' Under Control
JN281118 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (SUNA)—The Anya Nya II Movement, which supports the Armed Forces in their military operations against the rebels in southern Sudan, has announced that it has brought the situation within the movement under control following the dissension that was led by Major General Gordon Kong Choul, a movement military official who joined Colonel Garang's forces.

An Anya Nya II Movement official disclosed that the movement has begun to take measures to foil the conspiracies hatched by some southern political forces with the aim of attaching the entire movement to the rebel forces. He added that the movement has begun to carry out military decisions to liquidate all the elements who voice allegiance to the rebel movement. The Anya Nya II Movement, he went on to say, has in fact carried out its initial plan; namely, attacking all dissidents' concentrations.

The Anya Nya II Movement official told the daily newspaper AL-USBU' that the movement will make public, during a press conference to be held in Khartoum in the near future, documents and written information exposing the identities of the conspiring parties.

Tunisia

Beni Ali Discusses Mahgreb, Foreign Relations
JN251649 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Feb 88 p 23

[Interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by Dr Samir Khayri, chief editor of the Paris-based magazine KUL AL-'ARAB in Tunis, and published by AL-ANBA' in agreement with KUL AL-'ARAB; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The first topic of discussion with President Ben Ali was the Libyan and Algerian leaders' visit to Tunis, particularly as the Arab and foreign press covered this visit, sometimes in a contradictory manner. Moreover, some diplomatic circles spoke with some astonishment about the reasons and results of this visit. Some circles have even questioned the contents of the files brought by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid regarding President Ben Ali's political approach. The Tunisian president expressed astonishment at these strange attitudes toward the visit. He said:

We talked at length with Col al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid about the issue of building the greater Arab Maghreb, which I believe cannot take place—particularly under the current circumstances—without a solution to the Western Sahara crisis, and consequently, without the establishment of good relations among the Arab Maghreb states. I can frankly say that none of the strange points which were raised regarding this visit was discussed with the Libyan and Algerian leaders. Moreover, they did not ask me anything pertaining to the nature of the political trends occurring in Tunisian life.

We asked President Ben Ali: However, have there been new elements in Tunis which would enable it to play a greater and a more positive role in improving relations among the Arab Maghreb states and in building the greater Arab Maghreb?

President Ben Ali: Yes, the opportunity to improve relations between Tunisia and the Arab Maghreb states enables me to search for a solution to the Sahara problem, particularly as we have good relations with the parties involved, Morocco and Algeria. This opportunity to find a solution to the Sahara problem would clear the atmosphere and pave the way for building the greater Arab Maghreb.

[Khayri] On the external level, we have learned that the first visit will be to Saudi Arabia on the 10th of next month.

President Ben Ali: This is true. However, this visit will be preceded by a short visit to Algeria on 3 or 4 March to express thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid for coming to Tunis to congratulate me on assuming the post of president of the Republic of Tunisia, and also to hold talks with him on relations between Tunisia and Algeria.

[Khayri] What about relations with the other Arab states?

President Ben Ali: I can say that we were to some extent remiss in our relations with the Arab states for several years, and God willing, these relations have begun to witness new impetus based on a sincere commitment to the Arab nation's issues.

[Khayri] Tunisia has recently witnessed several problems related to the state's relationship with Islam, to the emergence of political trends that exploit religion as a cover, and to political violence which is practiced by some of these trends. What is President Ben Ali's opinion about all these issues?

President Ben Ali: First, we must stress a given fact, namely, that we are an Islamic state whose religion is Islam. Regardless of the attempts of those who seek to exploit religion for political ends, and after the change which took place on 7 November, we have taken quick measures to deal with this issue, particularly regarding the protection of houses of worship, care for imams and men of religion, support for religious rites, the broadcasting of prayer calls on radio and television for the first time in the history of Tunisia, and other measures which were absent from Tunisian life.

However, we must know the difference between a true Muslim and he who seeks to exploit religion for political ends. Some trends sought to exploit the weakness of some religious rites as a cover for their political programs. This is one issue, and there is another issue concerning the group that has actually carried out acts of violence in the name of religion, which they use as a cover—acts which are punishable by law. At the same time, there are some political groups that seek to work under the cover of religion. We tell these groups that we have no objection to your political action within the framework of its true purposes, and do not use religion as a cover. [passage omitted]

Romanian Official Confers With Prime Minister

LD260451 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0000 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Premier Hadi Baccouche and Nicolae Gioson, chairman of the Grand National Assembly in the Socialist Republic of Romania, reviewed their excellent bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and diversifying them, particularly in the economic field.

The meeting also dealt with the current international situation. The two sides noted the identity of viewpoints of Tunisia and Romania concerning the major international issues, particularly the issue of the Palestinian people.

The Romanian guest explained that his meeting with the prime minister enabled the two countries to reaffirm the need to hold an international peace conference under UN auspices in order to settle the Mideast issue. This move will uphold the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish their own independent state.

Minutes of Agriculture Talks With Algeria Signed

LD252328 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] In the field of Algerian-Tunisian cooperation, the minutes of talks were signed today in Tunis. The minutes specify giving new momentum to bilateral cooperation in the fields of irrigation and agriculture. The minutes were signed on the Algerian side by Agriculture Minister Mohamed Rouighi and on the Tunisian side by his counterpart, Mr Lassad Ben Osman. The signing was the highlight of Mr Mohamed Rouighi's 4-day visit to Tunisia.

Western Sahara

Statement on 12th Anniversary of Formation

LD271004 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0630 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The Saharan people are marking the 12th anniversary of the SDAR. On the occasion, the SDAR Information Ministry issued a statement which says in part that 12 years have passed since proclaiming the formation of the SDAR on 27 February 1976. The SDAR is the lawful entity of the Saharan people and expresses their legitimate national rights. After putting an end to the Spanish military presence, it was forced to continue the struggle against the transgressing Moroccan regime, which has been trying to replace Spain for the sake of realizing its expansionist ambitions in northwestern Africa.

The statement points out that after a bitter struggle and enormous sacrifices, the Saharan people have achieved diplomatic success. The SDAR has become a full member of the OAU. It is now recognized by 70 states. The Saharan people are underlining their attachment to a just and lasting peace with their neighbor Morocco, and renew on this occasion their resolve to continue the struggle until complete liberation has been achieved and their sovereignty and soil are respected.

On this occasion, the SDAR statement says: The Saharan people are addressing an appeal to all nations to work toward compelling Morocco to stop its attacks and submit to the will of the international community, and to the resolutions of the United Nations, the OAU, and the nonaligned states.

Barbados Announces Recognition of SDAR 27 Feb
LD281156 Algiers APS in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] SDAR, 18 Feb (APS)—On the historic day of 27 February, the 12th anniversary of the proclamation of the SDAR, the Saharan Ministry of Information issued a statement noting that the Government of Barbados has informed the Saharan Government of its decision to recognize the SDAR. Thus, a total of 71 countries now recognize the SDAR.

The statement pointed out that the SDAR's reputation in the world is growing daily and that the Saharan people's legitimate cause enjoys increasing support. The statement added that "the Saharan people and their government thank the people and Government of Barbados for this historic decision which expresses the aspiration of Barbados to establish a world where peace, justice, fraternity, and equality prevail among all peoples."

Polisario Calls Morocco To Enter Negotiations
LD281504 Algiers APS in English 1130 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] SADR (LT) [Liberated Territories], 28/2/88 (APS)—The Polisario Front once again called on Morocco to enter into direct negotiations as stipulated by the Resolution AHG 104 of the OAU and 42-78 of the UN, and to give up the policy of military escalation and threat of extension of the conflict to all the region and intransigence aimed at imposing the fait accompli.

At the end of the works, Thursday, of its executive committee, the Polisario Front reiterated the Sahrawi Party readiness to help the OAU acting president and the UN secretary general in the fulfillment of their task aimed at establishing peace in the region, a communique of the Saharan Ministry of Information indicated.

The Polisario Front Executive Committee also condemned in a final declaration Morocco's refusal of the peace plan on Western Sahara in defiance of the efforts deployed by the OAU and the UN and its refusal of direct negotiations with the Sahrawi party.

The Executive Committee called on the Kingdom of Morocco to put an end to "its occupation and to give back the zones it is occupying to the Western Sahara in order to organize a free and just referendum of self-determination." Concerning efforts deployed for the great Arab Maghreb, the Executive Committee, the communique pointed out, reaffirmed the readiness of the Sahrawi people to efficiently contribute to the materialization of the aspirations of the six Maghrebian peoples for unity, complementarity, edification and stability on the basis of equality, mutual respect of each people's sovereignty and territorial unity.

The Polisario Front Executive Committee qualified the Moroccan aggressive policy against the people of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as the sole obstacle before the edification of the Maghreb and the cause of instability in the region.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister on Ties With Italy, 'Uprising'

LD282316 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2227 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, described his talks with his Italian counterpart as beneficial and fruitful for both countries.

At a meeting with Italian reporters who accompanied the Italian foreign minister on his visit to the Kingdom, which ended today, he said: His excellency's visit will contribute toward strengthening relations between the two countries. Talks focused on various issues, including bilateral relations. He expressed his hope that these would develop.

His royal highness the foreign minister said the talks dealt with cooperation between GCC and EEC countries. He expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between them. He said: We hope ongoing contacts between the two sides will lead to a comprehensive agreement between the two communities that will serve their interests.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that a comprehensive discussion of major issues was made, foremost among them being the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the Iraq-Iran war. He said: Views were identical regarding both issues.

He added: Regarding the Palestinian uprising, there was a conviction that this uprising indicated that the Palestinian people have not submitted to occupation and are insisting on deciding their own destiny. We expressed to his excellency the minister our full appreciation of the EEC's stand vis-a-vis the popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories.

His royal highness told Italian journalists that he voiced his pleasure to Mr Andreotti for Italy's insistence that the solution to the Palestinian issue must be comprehensive and based on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, his royal highness the foreign minister said both countries emphasized the need to end the war with its destructive effects on both countries. He said discussion focused on the efforts made to end the war in the context of the UN Security Council.

His royal highness praised the concern demonstrated by the United States regarding the peace process in the Middle East. He pointed out he had not received any details yet on the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region. He said: We understand that the ideas prepared by the United States are to be discussed with the countries concerned in the region.

His royal highness said the Palestinian popular uprising has created a new reality that cannot be ignored and has refuted the supposition by Israel that the issue involved a border dispute between Israel and neighboring countries. He said it has transpired now that this is not true; Palestinians exist and are there to stay and they have said they will accept a solution that grants them their inalienable rights including the right to self-determination.

In response to a question by one of the journalists, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: The closing down of the PLO office at the United Nations is unlawful, because the UN has an agreement with the host country which gives it the right to observers and for those to have offices. He pointed out there was an Arab stand requesting a meeting of the UN General Assembly to discuss this issue.

Italy's Andreotti Speaks at News Conference

LD [illegible]

[illegible] tackled the Iran-Iraq war, the safety of navigation in the Arab Gulf, and the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories.

He emphasized in a news conference he held this afternoon in Riyadh prior to leaving the Kingdom following the end of his visit that his country is endeavoring to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian issue, which has been going on for long years.

The Italian foreign minister called on the UN Security Council to exert more effort to end the Iran-Iraq war. He said: If we do not reach a solution, this will affect the prestige of the United Nations.

He pointed out there is a similarity in views concerning guaranteeing the freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf in conformity with international laws.

Andreotti praised the Kingdom's stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and described as resolute the Kingdom's stand on the resolutions of the Amman extraordinary Arab summit concerning the international peace conference. He said: The conference must provide final solutions to the problems and must provide guarantees to the Palestinian people and not mere hopes, because guarantees take priority in this question.

As for bilateral relations between the two countries, the Italian foreign minister said the situation is very positive and that current projects between the Kingdom and Italy indicate good development. He said the two sides are working for more contacts and that a delegation of

Italian businessmen will come to the Kingdom to consolidate this aspect. He pointed out the two countries are interested in joint ventures of development on one hand and in Arab-Italian joint ventures in foreign countries on the other.

Andreotti pointed out there has been progress in the dialogue between the EEC and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and added that an economic protocol between the EEC and the GCC was examined at a recent meeting held during the UN General Assembly session.

He praised Saudi-Italian relations and their continued development and growth in the interest of both peoples and countries.

He added that Italy moves within the framework of the EEC for resolving the Palestinian problem and recalled the EEC 12 member-countries' previous stance supporting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and voicing total support for convening an international conference as well as for the Amman summit resolutions.

The Italian foreign minister pointed out his country is one of the main trade partners of the Kingdom and that the Saudi-Italian joint committee will continue its meeting at a suitable time to consolidate the two countries' cooperation.

Riyadh Commentator Views Shultz Tour

LD282326 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 88

["News and Comment" by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that reaching an agreement on the recent U.S. proposal for a peace settlement between the Arabs and Israel seems like an impossible task, but that he has not given up.

It seems that the U.S. secretary of state, in view of the reality of his current tour of some of the region's capitals, is not expecting his mission to succeed. This must be taken seriously in view of the fact that the U.S. (?secretary of state) is basing his assessment of the result of his tour on the views he has heard, whether from the enemy's government or from Arab officials he has met so far.

Although there may be differences in the views expressed, or being expressed, by Arabs and what has been heard by Shultz from the enemy, the two sides meet at the point of rejecting the U.S. proposals, but with sharp differences between Arab and Israeli perceptions. Arabs are basing their rejection on facts, while the Israeli rejection is based on deception and an attempt to impose a solution that conforms with the Israeli view.

In this context, it seems the U.S. secretary of state has not been able to reach an agreement. This does not mean that failure has been imposed on his mission from (?outside). On the contrary, the U.S. secretary of state could have put pressure on the Israeli enemy to ensure the success of his mission, and he is well aware of this. However, the [words indistinct] factors which rule the relations of some outside parties which are trying to participate in finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict; these factors are still affecting dealing with the problem seriously and neutrally. They want a solution in which Israel would not lose anything, a solution which would be at the expense of the legitimate rights of Arabs and the heart of their cause: the rights of the Palestinian people. This is the secret behind the failure of all the (?proposals) made by the Arabs' friends, even the extremists among them, in defending Israel's falsehood. [sentence as heard]

Unless this concept—the concept of psychological factors—is changed, all solutions are doomed to fail because they do not take into account those with original rights and because they ignore dealing with the facts of matters. This is not [words indistinct] to the U.S. Secretary of state.

Deterioration in Ties With PLO Denied

LD282341 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2306 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—To clarify what the news media have been talking about in the past few days, claiming a deterioration in the Kingdom's relations with the PLO, a responsible source has told SPA that to prevent any misunderstanding or interpretation about the reality of the brotherly and amicable relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the PLO, we would like to affirm anew that these relations exist and are firmly established and unblemished.

The Kingdom has taken the initiative to clarify its stand vis-a-vis its continuous support for the struggle of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

Support for Afghan Provisional Government Given

LD281550 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1525 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—Following the agreement between the Afghan mujahidin to form a provisional government in charge of leading the fraternal Afghan people in the coming period, an official source told SPA that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its support for this agreement.

It has also expressed its admiration for the struggle of the fraternal Afghan people who are still devotedly fighting to liberate their country and stress their Islamic faith and identity in order to reintegrate the ranks of their brothers.

Pakistani Efforts Noted

LD281627 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1555 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—An authoritative source has told SPA that the Government of Saudi Arabia supports the sincere efforts and the good offices which have been and still are exerted by His Excellency General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, his rightly guided Government, and the fraternal people of Pakistan for the cause of the Afghan people and their jihad over the last few years to liberate their country, as well as for Islamic causes and their eagerness to continue consolidating them.

Source on 'Predictions' Regarding Soviet Ties

LD282344 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2308 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—A responsible source made the following statement to SPA: Commenting on certain predictions and unjustifiable interpretations we have been noticing recently in the media on the future of relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, we would like to explain that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's decisions in laying down its foreign policy programs comes from within, relying in this on its conviction of what it sees as serving its interests.

The source added: It is common knowledge there have been trade exchanges only at the private sector level between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and both the Soviet Union and PRC for a long time.

Yemen Arab Republic

Talks Held With Chinese Official, Delegation

JN262146 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A round of talks was held at the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress between a General People's Congress delegation under Brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, Standing Committee secretary, and a CPC delegation under Li Zhechi, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the party committee of Gansu Province.

At the beginning of the session, Li conveyed the Chinese leadership's greetings to the leader president, our Yemeni people, and the General People's Congress. For his part, Dr al-Asbahi welcomed the CPC delegation's visit to our country. He praised the deep-rooted relations between the two friendly countries.

The two sides then discussed relations between the friendly countries and relations between the two political organizations in the two friendly countries. They also discussed ways to promote them within the framework of the close relations between our country and the PRC, noting that the fields of cooperation with the PRC were expanded by President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in December 1987.

The two sides also discussed a number of political and organizational issues of interest to the two political organizations in the two countries. They also discussed the expansion of the scope of bilateral cooperation and friendship within the framework of activating spheres of dealings, exchanging expertise, and working to consolidate peace, justice, and cooperation in the world.

They voiced support for the issue of defending human rights, the Palestinian Arab people's rights in the occupied Arab territories, and their vehement revolution against the Zionist occupation for the sake of retaining their rights, determining their destiny, and establishing an independent state on their soil under the PLO. The two sides also denounced the arrogant Zionist enemy's terrorist practices which are an illusory attempt to undermine this revolution. [passage omitted]

President Criticizes Khomeyni at Reception

JN271715 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said: Khomeyni is harboring a big delusion; he failed to understand Iraq well during his stay here. This is because Khomeyni is an introvert and a malicious and evil person.

In a speech made during a reception today for the secretary and members of the Ba'th Party's Saddam branch, his excellency the president added: Khomeyni has made a mistake while trying to understand things. He did not read history well, and thought he would find people who would make it easy for him to conquer Baghdad.

He pointed out: Khomeyni should have thanked Iraq for the hospitality it accorded him for the 14 years during which he ate its food and drank from its water, rather than choose to kill the sons of Iraq and to attempt to hold trials for them.

Saddam City, a large residential quarter in Baghdad, yesterday marked the anniversary of a visit by President Saddam Husayn. This visit was considered by the inhabitants of Saddam City as the green light for the launching of a large-scale campaign that sought to rejuvenate Saddam City and turn it into a modern quarter.

His excellency the president said that while defending the east and the Arab homeland's eastern flank, Iraq feels that "all Muslim and Arab armies are fighting with it." He added that "Khomeyni likes nothing except tombs. He loves neither peace nor life." He emphasized that "the Iraqi family's heart is filled with faith, trust, and enthusiasm. If this had not been the case, the fighter who is holding the rifle on the war front would not have held out."

During the meeting, a number of party and state officials delivered speeches.

Ibrahim Returns Following Cairo Visit

JN261519 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, Iraqi RCC vice chairman, returned here at noon today, following an official visit of several days to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

UK's Mellor Visits Basra, Departs 26 Feb

JN261552 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] David Mellor, state minister at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and his delegation have concluded a 3-day official visit to Iraq.

Shortly before his departure, Mellor visited Basra, where he saw firsthand the steadfastness of the townspeople and their valiant resolve to defend their homeland against Iranian aggression. Mellor and his delegation were also shown the consequences of the savage Iranian bombing of residential districts, houses of worship, and health, scientific, and educational centers.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,034

JN261847 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,034 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued to inflict painful blows on the Iranian regime, which ignited the war and pursues it in the face of all peace calls. The following is a roundup of our forces' combat activities for last night and today:

1. At 1430 [1130 GMT] today our eagle aircraft penetrated to northernmost Iran to make another strike at the strategic bridge of Qotur, which links Iran with the outside world, carries Iran's rail and land routes, and across which the Khomeyniites transport their military materiel. Our eagles managed to penetrate the enemy's air defenses and hit their target destructively.

Our Armed Forces aircraft today carried out 107 combat missions. Having completed their mission, all our aircraft returned safely to base with God's care and protection. Blessed be our Armed Forces and their courageous men.

2. Our helicopter gunships dealt violent blows to enemy positions, equipment, and vehicles on the war front. They caused heavy casualties in 61 combat missions, after which our helicopter gunships, thanks be to God, returned safely to base.

3. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: 56 scoundrels killed, others wounded; 17 infantry positions destroyed; 15 vehicles burned or destroyed; 1 107-mm tubular launcher destroyed; 2 shovels destroyed.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed, a machinegun and two infantry positions were destroyed; and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Special Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Three enemy personnel were killed in the II Army Corps sector.

6. An ammunition dump was blown up and two infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. A scoundrel was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. Five enemy personnel were killed in the V Army Corps northern sector, and an infantry position was destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 February 1988

Communique No 3,035

JN271200 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1131 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,035 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 Feburary]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] O heroes of Iraq: At 1155 [0855 GMT] today, a large number of our aircraft penetrated deep inside Iran to carry out the will of the people in pounding the economic pillars related to the war efforts, on which the regime of charlatans rely to perpetuate their aggression against our country.

The target of your brave hawks today was the largest oil refineries in Iran, the most effective in supplying Iranian military efforts with fuel. These refineries also supply oil products to a number of Iranian cities, including the capital, Tehran.

With accurate planning by the command, with accurate performance of our rapacious hawks, and with their courage, for which they are known, our hawks were able to penetrate the air defenses supplied by the Zionists to their agents in Tehran.

Thanks to God, our hawks pounded their targets with destructive bombs, shattering the oil installations in these refineries, leaving fire and columns of smoke billowing from them. Having carried out their mission, all our hawks returned with their aircraft safely and victoriously to base in God's care and protection. [passage omitted]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 February 1988

Warning Against 'Cities War'

JN271450 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1349 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Statement issued by a military spokesman dated 27 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In response to threats to shell Baghdad and Basra voiced by the Iranian regime, a military spokesman stated the following:

The Iranian peoples, as well as the international public and organizations, know that 1 year ago the Iranian regime launched a fierce war on Iraqi cities and purely residential quarters, including our capital Baghdad, using missiles, aircraft, and artillery. Despite the fact that the Iranian regime persisted in this criminal course of action for several months, Iraq chose to display patience, wisdom, and self-restraint.

Iraq did not deal with Iran in kind, with the aim of exposing to the Iranian peoples the reality of their criminal rulers and their persistence in the perpetration of aggression and the shedding of blood. This stand was also prompted by a desire to supply the international public with additional facts regarding the nature of this criminal regime.

This stand was also prompted by our appreciation of the international community, which sought to end the conflict through peaceful means and on the basis of international law—an effort that took the form of the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Now, when the world has realized the reality regarding Iran's insistence on continuing the war and challenging the international community's will by failing to conform to Resolution 598, and when efforts are being exerted to punish Iran for this stand, these new Iranian threats to ignite the cities war come as further confirmation of this regime's criminal behavior.

We strongly warn the Iranian regime that this time its shelling of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities will be met with a violent response. We will make all Iranian cities, including Tehran, targets for our missiles, aircraft, and other weapons. We would also like to warn them against the consequences of the delusion they are harboring, to the effect that our failure to reply in kind to their criminal acts was prompted by weakness, rather than patience, wisdom, and a sincere desire to achieve peace.

This time our deterrent strikes will rise to the level of their evil. They will be held responsible before their people and before the international public and organizations, for all of the consequences of shelling cities. Furthermore, they will also be held responsible for continuing the aggression and the war.

[Dated] 27 February 1988

Communique No 3,036

JN271836 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,036 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 February]]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued to carry out their heroic activities in the operations theaters, warding evil off the homeland, which is the abode of well- being

and love, and standing as an impregnable bastion in the face of our apostate enemies. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. The number of combat missions carried out by the aircraft of our heroic Air Force to achieve the objective mentioned in our Communique No 3,035, which was issued today, and to perform duties related to attacking enemy troops and their gun emplacements and equipment in the operations theaters, totaled 108. After carrying out these missions, all of our aircraft returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships flew 73 combat sorties today, inflicting significant losses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, and vehicles. They then returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, God be praised.

3. Our courageous units in the I Army Corps northern sector managed to inflict the following losses on the aggressors: killing 39 scoundrels and wounding others, destroying 8 infantry positions and 1 observation post, destroying 1 106-mm gun, burning and destroying 5 vehicles of various types, damaging 1 wheeled shovel [preceding word in English], and blowing up 3 ammunition dumps.

4. One enemy soldier was killed and others were wounded in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Some of our Army units in the II Army Corps central sector engaged the enemy troops facing them and managed to achieve the following results: killing six scoudnrels and wounding others, destroying three infantry positions and two observation posts, destroying one 120-mm mortar gun, destroying one 106-mm gun, destroying one machinegun, and blowing up one ammunition dump.

6. One infantry position was destroyed, its occupants killed, one single-barreled machinegun was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Two enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position and three observation posts were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. One scoundrel was killed and one enemy observation post was destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

9. Three enemy personnel were killed, one tank and one bulldozer were destroyed, and two boats were burned and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

10. One enemy observation post was destroyed and its occupants were either killed or wounded in the VII Army Corps sector.

11. The vile Khomeyniites used long-range artillery today to shell the suburbs of the city of Al-Qurnah, martyring two civilians, including one child, and wounding two others, including one woman. The enemy shelling also damaged a number of houses. May paradise be the lot of our two martyrs and may a speedy recovery be the lot of the two wounded persons.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 February 1988

Basra Shelled; 5 Killed

JN271855 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—The criminal Iranian regime today shelled residential quarters in Basra, southern Iraq, with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling martyred 5 civilians, including 1 child and 1 woman, and wounded 14 others, including 3 women. A military spokesman informed INA tonight that the shelling also damaged a number of civilian houses and other property.

Commander on Refinery Raid

JN280834 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, has stated that the Iraqi Air Force's mission now is to reach the most important and most difficult targets, and to destroy the oil and economic facilities exploited by the enemy for pursuing its aggression.

He said the Iraqi Air Force has accepted the challenge and that it has plans in accordance with which it will effectively repulse the aggression at the first opportunity. In a statement published in AL-THAWRAH today, the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense said Iran is deluded if it believes Iraq will be cowed by threats to shell cities.

The Iraqi commander said that Iraq will firmly retaliate against any Iranian attacks on cities, and that Iraq has plans to strike Iranian strategic targets and the dens which protect the corrupt heads, wherever they may be in Iran. He added that lamentations and cries for help will be to no avail if orders are given to carry out a violent retaliation.

Sha'ban said that the economic target destroyed by the Iraqi Air Force at noon yesterday is one of the important targets that the Iraqi Air Force had set within its plans. He said that this target is located in the eastern part of Iran and is heavily protected by the air defense means which were erected around it. He said the target was accurately hit and that Iraqi pilots saw dense columns of smoke billowing from the hit target.

The commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense stressed that yesterday's air strike is to show Iran that the prolongation of the war will destroy the Iranian economy and will dissipate the wretched Iranian people's aspirations for a better life.

The Iraqi Air Force commander addressed a strong warning to others who deal with Iran and who have designs against great Iraq. He said the Iraqi Air Force can reach enemies wherever they may be if they are tempted to attack Iraq.

27 Feb Saqqez Raid Denied

JN280945 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman vehemently denied today Iranian claims about the bombardment of Saqqez city. In a statement to INA, the military spokesman said that these Iranian claims come to impudently pave the way for Iranian shelling of residential areas in Iraq. The spokesman added that the Iraqi Air Force's raids yesterday had been restricted to raids against an Iranian oil refinery and the enemy units and troop concentrations on the battlefield.

Shelling of Cities Continues

JN281155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1144 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Iranian long-range artillery continued to shell purely residential areas in Basra and Al-Qurnah in southern Iraq, Khanaqin in central Iraq, and Qal'at Dizah in northern Iraq. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that as a result of the enemy shelling, one child and two women were martyred, and several others, including four women, sustained wounds of different types. The spokesman added that several houses in the areas which were subjected to the shelling were damaged.

The Iraqi spokesman warned Iran that it will bear the responsibility for these criminal actions and recalled the Iraqi military spokesman's warning in this respect that was made yesterday.

Iranian Attacks Denied

JN281228 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has said Iran is making false claims when it says Iranian warplanes raided military installations in Abu al-Khasib, south of Basra. In a statement today, the spokesman said there is not a single oil installation in the Abu al-Khasib area and that the Iranians are intentionally shelling purely residential areas with long-range artillery.

The spokesman added that the Iranian rulers cannot convince anyone that the death of women and children is the result of their shelling of military areas. The spokesman said that there are no oil installations in the Abu al-Khasib area, as the Iranians claim. The spokesman called on foreign correspondents to see for themselves the residential areas shelled by Iran yesterday and today.

The spokesman earlier today said that the Iranians, using long-range artillery, shelled the four Iraqi border cities of Basra, Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, and Qal'at Dizah, and that several citizens were killed or wounded and several houses were demolished.

Communique No 3,037

JN281245 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1212 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,037 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Yesterday, a military spokesman warned the Tehran rulers in explicit and clear language against the consequences of carrying out their threats to shell Iraqi cities. We have warned them and told them that after exercising patience and showing wisdom in the past by not responding to their crimes, they should not imagine that we will remain silent this time if they shell our cities and kill our women and children.

In spite of our explicit warning, the criminal Tehran rulers, thirsty for killings and destruction, did not pay heed to this warning. Their artillery and their missile launchers have been firing shells on our beloved cities of Basra, Al-Zubayr, Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, and Badrah since yesterday evening, throughout the night, and until noon today.

As a result of this barbaric and indiscriminate shelling, a large number of civilians, including women and children, were either martyred or wounded, and civilian properties were damaged.

The Iranian regime's intentions have become clear. It intends to reignite the cities war in preparation for aggression against our country, as it did in the past, defying human values and the consensus of the international community, which calls for the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN Security Council Reslution 598. From this premise, there is no way to avoid the decisive retaliation against these criminals and killers.

Therefore, and as mentioned in the military spokesman's statement yesterday, all the Iranian cities will be targets for our missiles and our aircraft as of now and until further notice. The one who warns is excused.

[Dated] Baghdad, 28 February 1988

Communique No 3,038

JN281747 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,038 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 February]]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With courage and overwhelming superiority over our country's enemies, our brave Armed Forces continued their heroic activities last night and today, inflicting more losses on the scoundrel Khomeyniites as follows:

1. The brave knights of the helicopter gunships flew 63 combat missions to attack enemy units, killing a number of scoundrels and destroying many positions and quantities of equipment. They then returned safely to their bases with God's care. God be praised.

2. Our heroic formations in the I Army Corps central sector carried out violent and concentrated blows, from artillery and other types of weapons, against enemy concentrations, vehicles, and equipment, achieving the following: killing 129 scoundrels and wounding others; burning and destroying 29 assorted vehicles; destroying 16 personnel shelters, 3 infantry positions, and 1 observation post; destroying 2 81-mm mortar guns and 1 heavy machinegun; blowing up 5 ammunition dumps; and damaging 1 tank.

3. Nine enemy personnel were killed in the I Special Army Corps—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Five enemy personnel were killed; three machinegun emplacements were destroyed; one ammunition dump was blown up; and one 6-mm mortar gun, one light machinegun, and one RPG-7 launcher were found in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Three infantry positions and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed and two scoundrels were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. One enemy single-barreled machinegun and four infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and one mortar emplacement and four infantry positions were destroyed in the VII Army Corps front.

8. The brave force of the Al-'Amiq Port attacked eight boats that tried to approach the port yesterday, forcing them to flee.

9. The tyrannical clique shelled with long-range artillery and missile launchers purely residential areas in our dear cities of Basra, Al-Zubayr, Badrah, Khanaqin, and Qal'at Dizah last night and today.

The brutal and indiscriminate shelling martyred a great number of citizens, including women and children. Other citizens, including a number of women and children, were also wounded. The shelling also damaged a number of houses, shops, and properties. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded. God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 February 1988

Communique No 3,039

JN281955 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1920 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,039 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 February]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

O brave Iraqis, at 2100 [1800 GMT] today, a number of your planes flew a combat mission to attack Dezful and Hamadan, defeat the darkness of falsehood, and fight the advocates of war with the power of peace and its exponents. As you know, the hawks are the best men to carry out the people's will.

They attacked the dens of the scoundrel Khomeyniites, inflicted punishment on their supporters, destroyed their dens over their heads, and left them as fuel for fire and for God's punishment for their rejection of peace. Your hawks carried out their duty with accuracy, precision, and in accordance with the accurate plan of the command. Then, they returned safely to their bases.

You will remain proud, O brave Iraqis, and your land and houses will be safeguarded as long as you love the leader and the leader loves you. Glory to your Air Force, which has deserved and will continue to deserve God's satisfaction and the leader's praise.

Your Air Force will continue to defend you and retaliate for your righteous martyrs. God be praised for enabling us to achieve victory over our enemy and guiding our steps. Let your faces glow with the joy of victory. God will be with you because you are right.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 February 1988

Two Missiles Hit Baghdad

JN290727 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0643 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Statement issued by a military spokesman dated 29 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iranian regime, which ignited this war, insists on perpetuating it, and ignores the international

will on the need to end it, and after it has failed to face Iraq's victorious troops, affirms its rancor against our people and its destructive barbarous course.

That regime also affirms its lack of responsibility toward its people and toward the catastrophes they are facing as a result of its crimes and its continuation of barbarous practices.

The regime of charlatans fired two missiles, supplied to it by the enemies of the Arab nation, at Baghdad at 0245 today [2345 GMT on 28 February] and 0305 [0005 GMT] respectively, today. The two missiles fell on two residential areas and resulted in the martyrdom of a number of our citizens, including women and children. Others were wounded, which also included women and children. A number of houses, shops, and civilian cars were also either destroyed or damaged.

We affirm that such cowardly acts will not prevent our people from carrying out their heroic role in defense of their land and sovereignty, nor will they prevent them from carrying out their cultural role. We affirm the contents of the Armed Forces General Command communique yesterday stating that, until further notice, all Iranian cities are targets for our herioc Air Force and gigantic missile force. The supporters of Zionism, the criminal rulers of Tehran, will ultimately be the losers.

Mercy and paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 29 February 1988

Five Iranian Boats Sunk

JN290717 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0703 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 29 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Proud Iraq is forging ahead from one victory to another, on every battlefield. At 2255 [1955 GMT] last night our valiant forces at the loading pier of Al-'Amiq Port discovered eight enemy boats attempting to approach them.

Our forces engaged them with various types of weapons and succeeded in destroying and sinking five of them, including their scoundrel occupants. The remaining boats fled.

God bless you, O heroic and loyal men of the Al-'Amiq Port and our Navy. Praise be to God for his victory.

[Dated] 29 February 1988.

Residential Areas Shelled

JN290927 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Feb (INA)—Last night, Iran continued to shell residential areas in Basra, Khanaqin, and Sirwan. This came in a statement to INA a short while ago by a military spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command.

More on Talks With Shultz on U.S. Initiative

Rabin Comments After Meeting

TA261847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Shultz has met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Afterwards, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked Rabin whether the secretary had brought workable proposals.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I believe everyone who would like to see the region moving ahead toward peace and to reduce violence and bloodshed should welcome his ideas. To what extent he'll find the formula, the timetable, that the parties—especially Jordan and Israel, and the Palestinians who reside in the territories—would agree to, I'm in no position to say.

I believe that it should be in the interest of Jordan, Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinians who reside in the territories that have no illusion that by force they can change the political position of Israel to join because in the long run—regardless of what appears now on your television, what is written and heard in the media—they are going to suffer more than anybody else from the continuation of the violence in the territories.

[Ben-'Ami] But what about the argument that it is in fact the violence in the territories which has brought Mr Shultz here, which has spurred a new American initiative?

[Rabin] Well, I was for the beginning of the political process because confrontations between countries and peoples cannot be solved by military means only. A solution to the problem must be achieved by political means. But, if there is any illusion anywhere that as a result of the violence in the territories I, for example, have changed my basic position on the substance of the interim arrangements or the permanent status of the territories, it is wrong. [end recording]

Rabin on Political Solution

TA270942 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami following meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on 26 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Rabin, following your talk with the U.S. secretary of state, do you believe that there are indeed practical ideas here for the beginning of a process?

[Rabin] Most of the talk between the secretary of state and myself first and foremost dealt with security issues. We primarily discussed security in the territories, but we also discussed everything that is taking place in southern Lebanon and the dangers of terrorism from there. It is naturally difficult to separate developments in the territories, their motives and character, the achievements the Palestinians scored in world public opinion through them, and the possibilities of the political process. I primarily expressed my views. Since this was a closed meeting I do not intend to elaborate.

I think that the very arrival of the secretary, his willingness to seek ways to promote the political process, is important. Similarly, it is equally important that events in the territories should not change the substantive positions of each one of us in the government on the form of the interim or permanent solutions. I believe that the solution to the problem of the Israeli-Arab conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli one, can only be achieved through political means, relying of course on military power and security achievements.

Still, it is impossible to solve the problem through the use of military means alone. The maximum that can be achieved through military means is relative calm, mainly preventing Israel's interests from coming to any harm. I think that at this stage the secretary is basically listening and asking questions. In our talks, at least—let me be cautious here, since I do not know what took place in his other meetings—I would say that he has a general framework but no final proposals yet. It is only natural that he cannot present a final view before he meets with the other sides. It is necessary for him to hear them too before he finalizes his position.

[Ben-'Ami] It was claimed today that the new situation which has developed in the territories, the riots, led the secretary to come here. Can his arrival calm moods down in the territories, or perhaps, will the rioters think that the more they riot, the more pressure they will bring to bear on Israel?

[Rabin] I favor the beginning of a political process, and I do not think I am the only one. I do not know anybody in the government who will stand up and say he is against the beginning of peace negotiations on our eastern border. If events in the territories have led to the start of a process, I do not view it as harmful, as long as none of us moves from his substantive positions on the shape of the interim and permanent solutions. I, at least, have not changed my views as to the form of an interim agreement, with whom it should be struck, and the form of the permanent arrangement.

[Ben-'Ami] What is your position on these ideas we have heard of lately, for example about the concept of territories in exchange for peace? Does the timetable presented by the secretary seem right to you?

[Rabin] First, we had better be truthful with ourselves. The trick of returning all the territories in exchange for peace has already been done with Egypt. It is worth remembering that in order to reach peace we returned to Egypt every centimeter of Egyptian territory demanded by that country. Egypt did not demand the Gaza Strip

from us. In other words, territories for peace, or more precisely, all the territories for peace, was the price paid for the single peace we have obtained with an Arab country.

Since 1968, for about 20 years, I have supported the Allon plan. The Allon plan stipulates that in the framework of peace, for Israeli considerations, we are prepared for a territorial compromise. By territorial compromise I mean that I voluntarily give up what I believe belongs to me. Therefore, territories, not all the territories as was the case with Egypt, in exchange for peace is an acceptable principle to me.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you fear a failure of this initiative may lead to early elections in Israel?

[Rabin] I very much hope that Secretary Shultz' visit, if it is followed up, will lead the sides concerned—namely, Jordan, a representation of the residents of the territories preferably in a joint delegation with Jordan, Israel, and possibly other countries—to sit around the negotiating table. In my opinion, the first test in promoting a peace process is not identifying the solutions before negotiations begin. After all, if solutions are reachable without negotiations, negotiations are unnecessary.

The problem is to reach negotiations, to reach a dialogue. The problem is reaching the stage of sitting around a single table and holding a practical discussion. Therefore, the problem and the test is whether it is possible to reach the stage of Israel, Jordan, and a Palestinian representation from the territories sitting together around the same table.

[Ben-'Ami] The problem is that Secretary Shultz should first carry out some shuttle diplomacy here, between the positions of the Likud and the Alignment, between the prime minister and vice prime minister.

[Rabin] I prefer not to answer this question.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Rabin, another question on the security issue, the issue of the territories. Minister Ari'el Sharon leveled criticism at the position of the defense establishment, of the IDF forces, regarding the incident in Qabatiyah in which locals murdered a man who was suspected of collaboration with Israel. He was upset about the fact that IDF units did not come to the aid of this suspected collaborator.

[Rabin] I am not prepared to address myself to details. I believe that the IDF acts according to a clear set of priorities. The first priority is to handle acts of violence by the residents of the territories, primarily in large towns and centers of population. The IDF first and foremost safeguards the traffic axes for those who use them, whether they are Israelis who reside in the territories or others. Other priorities are to maintain the Civilian Administration system, to enable those who want to leave for work in Israel to do so, and naturally to provide as much protection as we can to every Arab who wants our protection.

I think these are the tasks, and they are difficult to carry out. I know it is easy to criticize, but we should remember that basically speaking, from the point of view of Israeli security, the past 2 and 1/2 months went by without any Israeli fatality, either civilian or military. I wish I could say this about security events on the Lebanese border for instance, or even during this period in the war against terror, as well as about other belligerent initiatives we have known in the distant and more recent past.

Pazner: Timetable Unsuitable

TA261832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Secretary of State George Shultz has said the Camp David timetable is no longer suitable and a more forceful and innovative approach is needed. Shultz was speaking to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Earlier, the American visitor had a 2-hour meeting with Prime Minister Shamir who explained in detail the course which he thinks the peace process should take. Jack Katzenell reports:

Secretary Shultz did more listening than talking, sources in the prime minister's office say, and Prime Minister Shamir explained at length his views on the peace process with a stress on the autonomy plan and the Camp David framework.

A senior source in the prime minister's office said Shamir rejected the idea of an international conference, but the prime minister's media adviser Avi Pazner later denied this, saying the subject was not even raised. After the meeting, Prime Minister Shamir said the talks had been friendly and productive. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Chances for Success

TA262052 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren after first meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz on 26 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] We discussed issues such as the international conference. Our views on this creature are very close. We spoke about autonomy, which the Americans now prefer to call an interim arrangement because of the Arabs' reluctance to use the term autonomy. We examined all these things, and discovered what we agree completely on and what we do not agree on. We will continue to talk and consider the issues.

[Goren] Sir, on what do you agree, and on what is there not full agreement?

[Shamir] We will be able to answer that when we complete the series of talks with the secretary.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, will you agree to the proposal being worked out to promote the political process, and include Jordan in it, by means of a meeting under the auspices of the two superpowers?

[Shamir] I do not know what this means, what the idea is. If such an idea is raised at all, it will have to be presented more clearly. There was something similar to that in the past, and as is well known, Jordan turned it down while I agreed to it.

[Goren] Sir, did you get the impression that this time the secretary came with a sense of determination, which was the impression imparted by his speech on his arrival last night?

[Shamir] Look, the secretary is a serious man. He did not come here to waste his time. He wants to contribute, to achieve some sort of solution, or at least to draw closer to one. He is also a realist. If he sees that the conditions in the region do not permit him to act precisely according to the advice of his aides or his own thoughts, he will try to change, to look for other solutions. Whatever the case, he is very serious about what he wants and what we all want to achieve these days, namely, to advance toward peace.

[Goren] And how do you plan to help him?

[Shamir] We have proposals. We have a plan that is almost perfectly suited to the present situation. The plan was part of the Camp David Accords—which was called the framework for peace in the Middle East—on which quite extensive negotiations took place. They were cut off unjustifiably by the Egyptians, but the plan is now also very suitable for solving the problem we are facing.

[Goren] In general, are you more optimistic than in the past about the chances to further the process? Do you see any chances this time?

[Shamir] I find great logic in the proposals now being considered, if we can attain the agreement of the Arab side. We must not forget that over the years the main responsibility for the fact that we do not have peace lies with the Arabs, and not with Israel's positions.

Shamir, Shultz Refuse Comment

TA280706 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz refused to talk to the press a short while ago at the end of their 90-minute meeting. The meeting was also attended by members of both men's parties. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that Mr Shamir said there is no point reporting on the meeting because another is scheduled to take place this evening.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the meeting in which George Shultz is expected to report to Minister Peres about his talks in Amman yesterday is currently under way in the Foreign Ministry.

Ben-Aharon on 'Bargaining Stage'

TA280748 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state is currently conferring with Foreign Minister Peres. This is his second meeting this morning. He had met with Prime Minister Shamir earlier. We do not have many details about the first meeting and are still in the clarification stage that precedes the bargaining stage, said Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office:

[Begin Ben-Aharon recording] During his visit to Damascus and Amman, the secretary of state wanted to obtain the two countries' initial reactions to his thoughts. He provided us with a lengthy description of the long ceremony of his conference with President al-Asad and the interpreting process involved, described Al-Asad's personal standing, and his health situation. As for content, Syria remains firm in its positions and still wants what it had always wanted, namely an international conference that would actually determine the substance. The idea is that Israel would have to implement the decisions adopted in such a conference, and then everything would turn out fine.

In Jordan the dialogue was much more protracted. The Jordanians wanted to hear details about the U.S. thoughts about the projected link between the interim stage and the permanent stage: what kind of negotiations will be held; what type of international umbrella will be provided—all the things with which we are familiar and which were discussed at great length between us and the Americans.

The secretary of state will proceed to Cairo today and will return here in the evening, after which he is expected to visit Riyadh, too. On Tuesday he is scheduled to meet with King Husayn. The dialogue will continue.

What characterizes the U.S. situation is that it is still in the stage of collecting reactions in a bid to work out a plan that would reflect all the positions of the parties involved. [end recording]

Peres on 'Gap' in Positions

TA280917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is currently on his way to Cairo. He is expected back in Jerusalem this evening. He may meet with a PLO representation in the Egyptian capital. When he returns to Jerusalem, he will hold a working dinner with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir after which aides for both men might join the session.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that at the end of a meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and Secretary Shultz, Mr Peres said that the subject of his U.S. counterpart's mission is complicated, but not hopeless. At the end of the first round of talks, the chances and the risks have become clearer. As for the gap between his and Mr Shamir's positions, Minister Peres said that this will be discussed at the Inner Cabinet session scheduled to begin any moment now. He added that in the absence of any progress, the alternative will be shared by all.

During the Peres-Shultz meeting, the situation in the territories was also raised, and concern was expressed over events.

Peres Notes 'Difficulties'

TA280845 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The Shultz-Peres meeting ended a few minutes ago and we will transfer the broadcast directly to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel:

Secretary of State George Shultz briefed Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres about his meetings in Amman and Damascus. Here, again, no great message was delivered and Shim'on Peres told us: We are still in the question stage, and have not yet reached the answer phase:

[Begin Peres recording] We got a report about very intensive activity. Without minimizing the difficulties, I would say that we are not discussing something that is defunct. The matter is very much alive. It is complicated, but it has a good chance to live. Things are gradually clearing up, and that refers both to the chances and to the difficulties. The most important thing to do now is to continue to work. [end recording]

In his meeting with the foreign minister, Shultz expressed concern over events in the territories against the backdrop of the latest incidents. In a short while, his party will travel to the airport. From there he will fly to Cairo for a brief meeting with President Mubarak.

And here in Jerusalem, the Inner Cabinet is scheduled to hold a meeting at the end of the Cabinet session. This, too, is expected to take place shortly. The discussion will be on George Shultz' shuttle tour of the Middle East.

Ben-Aharon Reviews Talks

TA281200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The weekly Cabinet session in Jerusalem is continuing. It follows two long sessions Secretary Shultz held this morning with Prime Minister Shamir and with Vice Prime Minister Peres. First he held a protracted breakfast session at the prime minister's residence, and then held a long working session in the foreign minister's office. The caption for these two sessions: Shultz repeats the same things to the two men, but hears different responses. Razi Barqay reports from the prime minister's office:

The U.S. secretary of state again reported separately to Yitzhaq Shamir and to Shim'on Peres. The main point in these talks was an update on the positions of Amman and Damascus. Interestingly enough, there are conflicting assessments even on this account: The foreign minister's office has told us that the impression was that Jordan was giving Shultz the go-ahead, while the prime minister's office said that we have yet another proof that Jordan is intransigent and digging in its heels.

As we said, Shim'on Peres remained optimistic, and after his conversation with Shultz, told political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that the U.S. initiative is not dead. [passage omitted]

Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office told us after the Shamir-Shultz breakfast that it is not true that Israel is being portrayed as rejectionist. We heard nothing surprising from Jordan and Syria. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] After all, the basis for Shultz' tour is U.S. ideas which he presents—as we know them—seeking the reactions of the parties involved, such as Syria, Jordan, Egypt today, and then Israel. Thus, there is no room for talk about surprises. I do not believe anything has succeeded. Syria adheres to its old positions, while Jordan got into a little more detail and wanted to understand and delve deeply to the bottom of the U.S. ideas in a bid to determine if they are compatible with its own views.

[Barqay] Is there fear in the prime minister's office that Shultz may hold a meeting with PLO members in Egypt today?

[Ben-Aharon] We cannot imagine that the secretary would meet with PLO members anywhere, because he abides by the view, which he furthermore repeats in his own initiative, that there will be no dialogue with the PLO unless it accepts the well-known U.S. conditions.

As for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el residing here, he wished to meet with them, but they turned their backs on him. It seems he is still ready to hold that meeting with them if they will only accede.

[Barqay] Mr Ben-Aharon, did the prime minister show any flexibility today or did he give in on any point such as the nature of the permanent settlement or the broad autonomy—concessions which he never made prior to Shultz' arrival?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know what is called flexibility or what is the opposite. The prime minister presented his position and, to the best of my knowledge, it is based on the Camp David Accords and a logic demanding negotiations over the interim status, namely, autonomy; implementing autonomy; creating a situation that would enable negotiations on the permanent status when the time comes; and then holding these negotiations and implementing them.

[Barqay] I understand, though, that the business of the permanent settlement is unacceptable to him, or rather it is the nature of the permanent settlement as presented in the U.S. version that is unacceptable to him?

[Ben-Aharon] Even the Americans are not talking about a permanent settlement at this stage. Nor do they want to disclose their thoughts on this matter. They will reveal their thoughts in the course of the negotiations, as they have done also in previous rounds, for example during the autonomy negotiations when they presented their own suggestions to bridge the gaps.

[Barqay] Can you see Shultz coming here again, say after a brief sojourn to Europe?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know. He mentioned that there will be a continuation when the prime minister visits the United States next week, so I conclude from this that there is no such intention.

[Barqay] So how would you summarize things?

[Ben-Aharon] In the final analysis, the discussions are continuing, and we can only hope that they will yield something good for the people of Israel.

[Barqay] And in the meantime?

[Ben-Aharon] In the meantime, it is necessary to work, persuade, and try to attain our goals. [end recording]

Thus, at the moment the United States still adheres to its three principles: an international event as an opening, an interim settlement, and setting a date for the beginning of the talks on the permanent settlement. Israel is internally divided, while Jordan is hesitating, and Damascus has rejected the idea. The Palestinians, meanwhile, are throwing stones.

'International Event' Rejected

TA290525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Secretary of State George Shultz will have another meeting this morning with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Shultz will brief Peres on his visit to Cairo yesterday. After the meeting Shultz will fly to Amman, returning to Jerusalem in the evening. Jack Katzenell reports:

Yesterday for the first time Secretary Shultz spelled out his initiative in a formal document with a detailed timetable. The international event with the five permanent members of the Security Council would be in April, and the regional teams will begin direct negotiations in May on the interim settlement. Shultz discussed the plan last night with Prime Minister Shamir and, as expected, Shamir is opposed to the form of the event and the timing. The two also differed over the time for the interlocking between the interim settlement and the negotiations on the permanent settlement. Shamir thinks the Americans are trying to rush the process.

In spite of these difficulties Shultz has been expressing optimism. After his meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo he said: We think our package is promising and we will work together—by which he meant together with Egypt, to make it so. [passage omitted]

Peres Briefs Alignment

TA290614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on briefed the Alignment ministers on Shultz' mission in a short session last night. The possibility of early elections should the Shultz mission fail did not come up during the session. Following the session, Peres told our correspondent Razi Barqay that the pressing problem now is not internal politics but rather how to further the political process. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports:

[Begin recording] [Barqay] George Shultz would have felt at home in the Alignment ministers' session last night. The Labor Party accepts the main points of his plan. Shultz' entourage is frustrated by the rejection of Shultz' initiative by other offices in the area, both in Jerusalem and in the Arab countries. Mr Peres gave the ministers a matter-of-fact briefing and avoided any debate over the Likud positions. One of the ministers told us after the session that Peres will conduct himself in a nonpartisan manner as long as Shultz is in Israel.

After the session we asked the vice prime minister whether it is true—as the media claims—that the U.S. initiative has failed:

[Peres] You have an advantage over me. I have not heard the media today. I do not, however, think the initiative is stuck. This is only the beginning of the road. This issue is very complex, and we have no reason to write the obituary of something which is still being looked into. Nothing has died yet.

[Barqay] You are known as someone who said that time is running out. The question is: How much time do we still have, in your opinion?

[Peres] Time is running out because our timetable extends to November at the most, and then, too, there is no guarantee that things will calm down; therefore, the earlier the better.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, will the elections be held in November?

[Peres] Let us drop the election issue. There are more pressing issues. The problem now is how we can improve the situation in which we are presently entangled. When there were no disturbances in the territories, people asked: What is the rush? Now they are saying that we should not deal with it [referring to the political process] while the disturbances continue.

The basic problem, however, remains the fact that we are faced with 1 and 1/2 million people who do not want to live under our rule. There are those who think that if we annex the territories in which they live, Israel will be better off. I believe that this would be the greatest mistake the Zionist movement could possibly make.

[Barqay] This morning Shim'on Peres will again meet with George Shultz. Yesterday Shultz breakfasted with Shamir. This morning, to preserve the balance, he will breakfast with Peres. The document which the Americans presented to Shamir and Peres still awaits the Israeli Government's reply. [end recording]

Peres on 29 Feb Meeting

TA290911 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The meeting between Shultz and Peres ended a short time ago in Jerusalem. Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] [Frankel] The U.S. secretary of state is on his way to the airport, where he will depart for another round of talks in Amman. This morning he held a 90-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Peres over breakfast. Following this meeting, we heard Mr Peres:

[Peres] Secretary of State Shultz is on his way to Jordan. We reviewed the problems between Israel and Jordan very thoroughly. My impression is that the Jordanians are taking Secretary Shultz' proposals very seriously. It is still too early to say what their position will be regarding particular questions. As in any negotiations, here, too, there are problems which stem from the situation that preceded the negotiations and others which arise in the course of the negotiations. The important thing, however, is that the negotiations are continuing.

[Frankel] Has Shultz ended the stage in which he asks questions? Is he progressing toward the bargaining process, toward a real mediation effort?

[Peres] I think we have all reached the stage of searching for answers to questions, and not that of asking questions.

[Frankel] When will Israel—with both its camps—give its answer to the U.S. secretary of state?

[Peres] I do not know. I do know, however, that the timetable is very crowded. If you look at the calendar you will first of all see the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting scheduled for the end of May and the elections in the United States and Israel in November. This gives an urgency to our need to keep this process alive.

[Frankel] Another word before we end: Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, has reacted to reports issued this morning by saying that no pressure whatsoever was exerted on Mr Shamir by the secretary of state, and no binding answers are required yet regarding the proposals conveyed by the Americans. According to Pazner, the clarifications stage is still going on. [end recording]

Labor Supporters Demonstrate

TA280944 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Several dozen United Kibbutz Movement [Labor Party-affiliated kibbutz movement] members are currently demonstrating opposite the prime minister's office urging an immediate government decision to embark on a process that would lead to real peace with the Palestinians. Students belonging to the Labor Party's Ofeq Movement are also demonstrating nearby.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the students brought with them an ostrich with a placard tied round its neck, reading: I am Yitzhaq Shamir. I bury my head in the sand each time I hear the word "peace."

And another tidbit: A white dove suddenly appeared from nowhere and landed on a placard reading: Peace is worth everything.

Shultz Seeks 'Clear' Answers

TA291335 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Report by Hayim Shibi, Orli Azulay-Katz and Bina Barzel]

[Text] Last night, for the first time since the Shultz mission to the Middle East began, the impression was received that the U.S. secretary of state is no longer satisfied with raising ideas, but is now demanding that the prime minister give answers to tough questions.

In view of the evaluation that Shamir will have to oppose some central planks in the U.S. peace plan, some Likud members said it was advisable to bring the general elections forward to permit the nation to decide.

Yesterday Shultz and Shamir held talks in the prime minister's residence. The first was held in the morning in the presence of aides. The second meeting lasted almost 2 hours, continuing until after midnight. This meeting was held after a dinner which was also attended by their wives.

It must be stressed that Shultz did not use any threats. He did not even hint at what steps the United States might take if it does not receive the answers it is looking for from Shamir.

But the U.S. secretary of state, who is leaving for Amman today, and will meet with King Husayn in London tomorrow, made unequivocally clear to Shamir that he is at present concentrating on the attempt to get Jordan to join the initiative. Because of that he requires a clear answer to four key questions:

—Is Israel prepared to join an international conference?

—Is Israel ready to negotiate with a Palestinian delegation which will have the blessing of the PLO?

—Does Israel accept the principle of "territories for peace?"

—Does Israel agree to having the talks on an interim settlement linked to talks on the permanent status of the territories?

Shamir replied with a very reserved "yes" to the first question, but is inclined to reject the others, especially the last two. King Husayn, on the other hand, is demanding a positive response to all the questions as a condition for joining the U.S. initiative.

Shamir News Conference

TA291632 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir does not reject the idea of closing the territories to media. Shamir held a news conference in Tel Hay on this day of 11 Adar [Hebrew calendar date of death of Zionist hero Trumpeldor by Arabs]. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, was there.

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] The prime minister says that his positions have not changed. I hope to find a common language with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, he said. Difficulties have never deterred me. I do not think the United States will pressure us. As for yesterday's political debate, the prime minister said:

[Shamir] There was no talk of resigning, nor any attacks on the chief of staff. There was simply a debate and some disagreement, which is absolutely legitimate. If after this continuing controversy, Cabinet members suggest certain amendments or alterations, it is understandable. These can be accepted or rejected, but they should not be seen as a confrontation between the Cabinet and the IDF.

[Horowitz] The prime minister expressed his hope that the U.S. secretary of state would not enter negotiations with representatives of terrorist organizations. He leveled harsh criticism at the foreign media.

[Shamir] When the foreign reporters latch on to a few irregular cases and see them as the rule, instead of as exceptions, it is a grave injustice to all of Israel, and particularly to the IDF. The IDF soldiers have a difficult job to do, they are doing it with utmost devotion, restraint, and with an obedience to the moral code unparalleled in any army in the world. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Frayj on Territory for Peace

TA271255 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The invitation by George Shultz to meet with Palestinians goes unanswered. There were no takers when the secretary went to East Jerusalem last night. The PLO had earlier warned that any Palestinian who dared to meet Shultz would be assassinated. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj:

[Begin recording] It is not possible to meet. The Palestinian response is that we welcome the visit, because we want peace more than any other people on earth, but the counterproposal from the Palestinians is that he ought to meet with some Palestinians from the occupied territories and from outside. I think the uprising in the 3d month, in your assessment of the political situation, ought to be considered, not to keep to old cliches of the past. [end recording]

Mayor Frayj told Steve Rodan that Israel must accept territory for peace. Otherwise, there will be no peace talks.

[Begin recording] I deeply believe that unless the Israeli Government, specifically the Likud, change their position to be more positive, more flexible, and accept the principle of territory for peace, there will be no peace negotiations. [end recording]

And it's not a question of the Palestinians, of Mayor Frayj, refusing to meet Shultz because they are afraid of a PLO bullet in the head.

[Begin recording] I don't agree with that because if we take the Israeli policy from 1967 till today, Israel offered us two things: the Yig'al Allon plan which is now dead because of the intensity of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the garbage collection autonomy which still Israel persists on applying in the West Bank and Gaza.

Even the American delegation and the Egyptian delegation could not accept the Israeli version for limited autonomy. So, what the Americans could not accept, what the Egyptians could not accept, who expects the Palestinians to accept? [end recording]

Sinyurah on U.S. Initiative

JN282133 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1545 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Our correspondent Qaysar Kabaha talked with Jerusalem's AL-FAJR chief editor Hanna Sinyurah. Here is Sinyurah telling us his position with regard to a meeting between Shultz and Palestinian personalities:

[Begin recording] [Sinyurah] In his speech at the American Colony [Hotel] in Jerusalem, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz addressed the Palestinians. He mentioned nothing except the Palestinians. My comment on this is that we want Mr Shultz to talk with the Palestinian people and their representatives, not with the Palestinians of the occupied territories and the Palestinians abroad. However, he mentioned many things. Among them he said there will be a peace process with Palestinian participation. For this Palestinian participation to materialize, we demand that the United States recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination.

[Kabaha] Mr Sinyurah, apart from that, was there anything new in the U.S. Administration's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question?

[Sinyurah] The last paragraph of Shultz' speech contained a nonpolitical comment. He said: The dream of both sides—meaning the Palestinian and Israeli sides—is difficult to materialize if one side does not listen to and think of a solution to the other's requirements.

[Kabaha] But, Mr Sinyurah, he equated the security of Israel with the security and rights of the Palestinians.

[Sinyurah] Yes. I am talking about the positive aspects of the secretary of state's speech. I said that he, without using a political expression, said the dreams of both parties will not be materialized unless each side considers the situation of the other. This means the same as the security of Isael and that of the Palestinians are equal. What the secretary of state's speech lacks, however, is clarity. The Palestinian people do not reject meeting Shultz. There is a delegation now waiting to meet Shultz but the delegation represents the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and abroad.

[Kabaha] Yes. When will the meeting take place?

[Sinyurah] As I said, the rejection is not coming from the Palestinian side. The PLO has named a delegation and informed U.S. authorities of the delegation's willingness to talk with the secretary of state.

[Kabaha] But when will the meeting take place?

[sinyurah] If there is enough time, over the next few days. If not, the meeting can take place later, especially since there is no official U.S. rejection as yet of this proposal.

[Kabaha] Does this mean there is a change in your position...

[Sinyurah, interrupting] [Words indistinct] the stand of the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO, is that we want a constructive dialogue with the United States leading to a negotiating table at an international conference to be attended by all parties.

[Kabaha] Can this be called a change in the rejection policy?

[Sinyurah] I am sure there is no rejection as far as the Palestinians are concerned. There is clarity and emphasis on Palestinian rights.

[Kabaha] But you refused to meet U.S. Secretary of State Shultz?

[Sinyurah] We told the U.S. secretary of state that we want to meet him, but he does not have the right to choose the Palestinian delegation. The party that chooses the Palestinian delegation is the representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO.

[Kabaha] Mr Sinyurah, together with Fayiz Abu Rahmah, met with Shultz in Washington. What prevents you from meeting him here in Jerusalem?

[Sinyurah] There is a big difference between our meeting in Washington which aimed at explaining the situation in the occupied territories and the presentation of the 18

items put forth by national institutions in the occupied territories. There is also another difference. What Shultz wants now is negotiations on Palestinian rights, especially the right to self-determination. This cannot be conducted by a delegation that does not represent all Palestinians.

[Kabaha] Mr Sinyurah, my last question: Will you be among the delegation that will meet with Shultz in due course?

[Sinyurah] I frankly say that those chosen by the PLO represent all Palestinians.

[Kabaha] Thank you, Mr Sinyurah. [recording end]

Palestinian Parliament Rejected

TA281036 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpts] One major component of George Shultz' peace plan is an interim arrangement for the region. [passage omitted]

Shultz attaches great importance to the interim arrangement, and a special team on his behalf is busy working out the details of the plan.

Yesterday, the team met with Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir to consolidate the final details. According to the U.S. plan, the autonomy's administration should be an elected body consisting of several dozen people.

Israel totally objects to the original plan of establishing a 100-strong body so that "a second Knesset is not established." In his talks with Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres, Shultz said that the details of his plan are known and he would like to hear reactions to and comments on them.

Shultz emphasized that the talks on a permanent settlement must begin in December, and heard Shamir's outright objection to this. Shultz emphasized that his plan is based on Israel enjoying a broad autonomy in defense matters and allowing the Palestinians to enjoy a broad autonomy on domestic affairs.

Ben-Aharon on Palestinians

TA280817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, says it is inconceivable that the United States would break its promise and agree to hold a meeting with PLO representatives. Mr Ben-Aharon was speaking to our correspondent Razi Barqay after the prime minister's meeting with the U.S. secretary of state. He was reacting to reports about a possible meeting today between George Shultz and a Palestinian representation in Cairo.

Mr Ben-Aharon added that Secretary Shultz' report on his meetings in Amman and Damascus indicate that he heard nothing new there. Both Syria and Jordan are piling up obstacles, including on the international conference. In reply to a question on whether he does not believe that Israel might also be portrayed as rejectionist, Ben-Aharon said that Israel's positions are easy to accept and there is no reason for it to show even greater flexibility.

Efforts for Palestinian Meeting

TA282009 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's aides are at this time trying very hard to arrange a meeting between him and a Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem tomorrow. It is not yet certain whether these efforts will be crowned with success. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports:

In order to hold a meeting with a Palestinian delegation Shultz must have the boycott issued by Yasir 'Arafat canceled. As late as this afternoon, however, PLO spokesman Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh once again warned all the leaders in the territories against meeting with the secretary of state.

This is, however, apparently not the end of the question. Several lists are currently being examined and are being relayed in overseas telephone calls in a bid to agree on participants who would be acceptable to the Americans, would not infuriate Israel, and would enjoy the PLO's approval. If an agreement is reached, two Palestinian professors from the United States, the well-known Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, both of them members of the PNC, are expected to arrive in Israel.

As is known, the Americans have for some time been of the idea that talks should not be ruled out with certain members of this body, although it is a kind of parliament of the PLO. To be on the safe side, two other candidates, who are also academics and close to the PLO, are standing by in Europe.

Conspicuous in their absence from the lists now being examined in anticipation of a possible meeting tomorrow are figures in the territories known to be close to Jordan, such as Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. The name of AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah has not yet been included in the lists. Nevertheless, his travel companion on his trip to Washington to meet Shultz, attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah, is certain to be a member of such a delegation, if one comes into being. The same holds true about Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, the deposed

mayor of Hebron, and AL-QUDS editor Mahmud Abu Zalaf who, according to the report in our possession, is playing an active role in the explorations now under way.

A short time ago, Abu Zalaf himself denied to me he had any information whatsoever on the matter and Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni did likewise, although it is clear that Egypt has been pressuring 'Arafat to allow the establishment of a delegation suitable to meet Shultz and to have the meeting held in Israel.

As noted, there is nothing definite yet, and the PLO has not yet issued a new statement lifting the boycott on Shultz. [passage omitted]]

Sinyurah Says 'Arafat Prefers Israel to Jordan

TA280710 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Hanna Sinyurah said yesterday that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat had told him once that he preferred a confederation with Israel to one with Jordan.

The editor of the East Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR was speaking at a public forum at the Jerusalem Theatre. He said that Palestinians in the territories who had experienced Jordan's heavy hand between 1948-67 did not want to return to Jordanian rule.

Sinyurah described 'Arafat as a moderate leader who must be circumspect in what he says publicly for fear of his political flanks within the Palestinian camp. If the PLO chief were forced out, said Sinyurah, he would be replaced by more radical leaders. Equating 'Arafat's position with that of Labour leader Shim'on Peres, Sinyurah said that 'Arafat "has his own Yitzhaq Rabins" and others desirous of taking his place within the PLO, not to mention his own Likud.

Navy Sinks 'Terrorist' Boat Off Lebanese Coast

TA280510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Last night, a Navy patrol destroyed a terrorist boat off the Lebanese coast. The boat was making its way toward Israel for the purpose of carrying out an attack. Our forces sustained no injuries. The IDF spokesman reported that at approximately 2130 yesterday, a Navy patrol spotted a small terrorist vessel in the Tyre area. It opened fire and the boat sank.

2 'Terrorists' Aboard

TA281841 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The kayak boat the Israel Navy destroyed yesterday contained only two terrorists and both were killed. This is emphasized by the Dabur boat commander today. According to the commander, meticulous searches were conducted and tracks of additional terrorists were not discovered. [passage omitted]

3 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With SLA

TA281055 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed early this morning in southern Lebanon in the course of an attempt to attack a South Lebanese Army [SLA] outpost. Four SLA soldiers were also injured in the exchange of fire. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that signs of dragging were discovered in the region, indicating that the terrorists suffered additional casualties.

The terrorists who were killed last night in the clash with the Navy boat off the Lebanese coast belong to Habash's organization, the PFLP. An announcement issued by the organization in Beirut states that two terrorists were killed while the three who were injured managed to swim to the shore.

Katyushas Land in Galilee 25 Feb; No Casualties

TA271919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] It was disclosed this evening that several Katyushas fired from Lebanon landed in the Galilee 2 nights ago [25 February]. There were no casualties, but property was slightly damaged. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the 122-mm rockets were fired from a position north of the security zone.

Bomb Explodes in Tel Aviv Area; No Injuries

TA281142 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] A bomb exploded in Rishon Leziyyon a short while ago. Nobody was hurt. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that the bomb was planted near the sports stadium in this town. As we said, nobody was hurt, and the police forces are searching the area.

Cabinet Views Unrest, 'Deviant' Soldier Conduct

TA281015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] At the Cabinet session, Minister Moda'i said that it is necessary to shoot to quell the uprising in the territories. He maintained that it is absurd to issue instructions to the soldiers as to what is permissible and what is not. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this statement was made after a review by the chief of staff, the defense minister, and the police affairs minister on deviant soldier conduct.

Minister Corfu suggested considering closing off the territories to the media to prevent stirring up emotions. Minister Shahal asked the prime minister to make a joint effort to guarantee Israel's vital interests, such as secure borders.

IDF Lack of Force Attacked

TA281045 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Here is an update on the Cabinet session, which is still under way. The update has been provided by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel: In the session, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i attacked the IDF and the security forces, arguing that they are not doing enough to quell the riots in the territories. He told the chief of staff, who also attended the session: Please shoot! He also said that it was ridiculous to issue written instructions on what the IDF soldiers may and may not do.

Minister Corfu asked that the policy of apologizing after each incident in the territories stop. Minister Shahal reacted by saying that part of the political echelon finds the IDF responsible for this, and while this is not only unfair and ineffective, it also constitutes a delusion involving great hazards to Israel's security. Minister Shahal asked the prime minister to hold a political debate at the Cabinet plenum on the U.S. secretary of state's mission.

Ministers Request Media Ban

TA281240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami from the prime minister's office—live]

[Text] This morning's Cabinet session lasted much longer than originally planned, and the Inner Cabinet, which was scheduled to hold its meeting immediately after this morning's Cabinet session—which was supposed to be short—did not meet. The discussion of the chief of staff's and the defense minister's reports lasted a long time, virtually until a few moments ago when the session adjourned. In the course of the session, Minister Rabin said that there are 500 Arab settlements in Judaea and Samaria, and it is impossible to deploy in all of them simultaneously without paralyzing the entire army.

Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said that the Cabinet cannot assume collective responsibility without holding a discussion on the crucial matter at hand. The IDF cannot provide the solution, and the illness cannot be cured by breaking the thermometer, Ya'aqobi said. A political solution involving territories in exchange for peace is the proper solution.

In the Cabinet meeting, several Likud ministers demanded several times that the media be banned from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, for example, said that he has information from authoritative sources that some reporters and photojournalists lodge themselves inside the Arab villages, and their very presence stimulates developments.

Is it impossible to expel them by virtue of an instruction from the defense minister, Minister Moda'i queried? We saw a Broadcasting Authority vehicle waving the PLO flag, Moda'i added, and the reporter explained that the passengers' lives were in jeopardy. Who asked them to butt in, anyway, Minister Moda'i asked?

He added: It has been 80 days since the beginning of the riots. At first the assessment was that they would continue for several days, then this was changed to several weeks, and now people claim that the situation is impossible. What is happening to discipline within IDF ranks, where soldiers beat up children while the commander of the local command releases stone throwers?

As part of his criticism of the IDF's way of handling the riots, Minister Moda'i is also reported as having said that it is necessary to shoot and it is absurd that written instructions should be circulated among the IDF soldiers on what is permissible and what is not. The circular, a copy of which was distributed among the ministers during the session, further recommends that every soldier carry the leaflet in his pocket throughout his stay in the territories.

Minister Corfu also criticized the media, maintaining that because its presence stirs up emotions, we should contemplate the possibility that the area be declared off limits to reporters and photographers. We must stop apologizing after every incident in the territories. Each time we say that the IDF is investigating the case. The IDF is encountering an enemy, and whenever one faces the enemy, there are bound to be casualties.

Minister Moshe Qatzav joined the chorus of those demanding the closing off of the area to the media.

Thus, this was a very extended Cabinet session. Regarding the political issue and Shultz' mission, Minister Moshe Shahal demanded that the prime minister hold a plenary session on the political initiative, as Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i did when he summoned the entire Cabinet in Amman after his meeting yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Why is Shamir not doing the same, Minister Shahal asked?

As we said, the meeting was very long. The special Inner Cabinet session which was slated to hold further discussions on the Shultz initiative was canceled. The prime minister and the vice prime minister have now left for a memorial service for the late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. It seems that the Inner Cabinet will meet on Tuesday.

Shamir Does Not Rule Out Ban

TA291356 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not categorically reject the possibility of closing the territories to the media. In an interview with our correspondent in the

north Menahem Horowitz Shamir said that the barring of reporters from various spots is being done in many places in the world. The IDF and the security forces should examine the usefulness of such a step, said the prime minister. He also attacked the criticism of Israel voiced by many countries.

Shamir added that it is difficult to understand the injustice and lack of proportion of their reactions to the events in the territories. These remarks were made in his address on 11 Adar [date commemorating death of Zionist hero Trumpeldor in battle against Arabs] ceremony in Tel Hay.

Likud Prepares for Possible Early Elections
TA291137 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The Likud leadership is preparing for the possibility of early elections should the United States exert pressure regarding the political initiative. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav has learned that the decision was made following consultations between the party leadership and the prime minister's associates.

Today the Likud faction executive adopted a decision permitting Knesset Member David Magen to raise a private bill for disbanding the Knesset, setting 26 July as the date for the next Knesset elections, but putting off Magen's submission of the bill to the plenum until the Likud faction executive has discussed and approved it.

Regarding the possibility of U.S. pressure on Israel, Minister Ari'el Sharon reminded the Americans of Vietnam and Iran, where solutions were imposed. According to him, the Americans should be thanked for their mediation efforts, but a solution must not be imposed in the Middle East. Sharon spoke with our correspondent Dan Eshel during a tour of the settlement of Qedumim.

Rabin Rejects Calls for 'Drastic Crackdown'
TA290840 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin dug in his heels at yesterday's weekly Cabinet session and spiked demands by a group of Likud ministers for a drastic crackdown against Arab rioters in the territories, whatever the consequences.

The atmosphere yesterday morning was grim, following the affair of the four soldiers in Nabulus who kicked and beat handcuffed captives, and the unhindered village lynching of a Qabatiyah Arab.

Despite calls by at least four Likud ministers that still more drastic measures be taken against rioters and inciters than those up to now, and the urging by some ministers for a ban of media men from the territories, Rabin said he would not crackdown any harder if this entailed abandoning norms of military conduct which the IDF had traditionally honoured. "You cannot saddle the IDF with a mission that is outside of its proper functions. The unrest in the areas reflects a problem which can only have a political solution," he insisted.

Rabin told his colleagues they should not expect to wake up one morning and discover that the IDF had made the rioters vanish into thin air, without knowing or caring how that had been achieved.

There was no way that a force like the IDF could impose an instant solution using crackdown tactics, he said. The cabinet must realize the severity of the dilemma.

The case presented by the group of Likud ministers amounted—according to one Alignment minister—to a call to deport large numbers of inciters, blow up rioters' homes, use firearms more freely, intimidate potential rioters and shelve moral considerations while the action was being carried out. They reportedly said that, if need be, special legislation should be passed to make a more drastic policy possible.

Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon said the turmoil could be terminated in short order, if only the defence minister would decide to do so. "I know how to bring the rioting to a swift end," Sharon said. "I don't understand the army's problem."

Rabin replied that he had no intention of altering his methods. "At best we shall have to live with a relative lull," he said. "The War of Attrition, after the Six Day War, along the Suez Canal front lasted for 1,000 days and we learned to live with it, at a cost of over 200 soldiers' lives. That war was brought to an end by a political arrangement. The same goes for the war in the territories," he said. "It may last a long time, too," he added grimly. [passage omitted]

Mitzna' Expresses 'Shock' at Nabulus Beatings
TA270608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Interview with General 'Amran Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, by Leslie Sasser on 26 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Last night the head of Central Command, General 'Amram Mitzna', expressed shock and horror at the incident [IDF beating of Nabulus youths], and said he was taking measures to insure that the soldiers responsible would be punished, and that there would be no repetition of that type of conduct. Mitzna' spoke to me last night about his feelings on viewing the [CBS] film.

[Begin recording] [Mitzna'] Well, I was shocked. I saw the film in its whole length. It was not just a minute that was in the Israeli television, but almost 15 minutes. As I said, I was very surprised and canceled all my schedule

for today. I went to Nabulus, and started with the investigation. We put under arrest the four soldiers that commit this crime. I suspended an officer. I released the two Arabs, even that they did a lot of troubles during yesterday afternoon. I thought the better is to let them go home.

[Sasser] Do you think this necessitates an overall rethinking of the educational program in the army?

[Mitzna'] No, I don't think so. It's too early to say. Of course there is a lot to do, a lot to do even without seeing this video, without having such problems. I think that I have to say that our soldiers are facing a very, very complicated situation, and they are facing and fronting a situation which is almost impossible to deal with. Still, I do think, even that it is a little ironic to say it, it is still exceptions.

We are dealing with them. We are going to deal with them, and I still think that we can and we will deal with the situation, with the missions that we have to do, with giving respects to the people living in this area, trying not to hurt those who are doing nothing, and trying to deal according to the law, according to the regulations, with those who act against us.

[Sasser] Do you think the number of exceptions can be reduced?

[Mitzna'] I am sure. I think that the number of the exceptions were reduced already. Still there are too much, and some of them, as you saw this evening, and as we experienced maybe a week ago, are very, very bad. [end recording]

Urges Talks With Subordinates

TA281012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The CBS Televison report on the beating of Arab youths [in Nabulus] was shown to Central Command officers in a meeting this morning. Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, was the only person to take the floor, and he said that the IDF will not be an army of riffraff.

The commanders must have pep talks with their subordinates, he said, and everything should be done to make sure that such phenomena do not recur.

Today, the defense minister and the chief of staff will meet with the members of the unit stationed in Nabulus whose men were involved in the incident. Senior military sources have told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that we must not lose our sense of proportion, and the soldiers in Judaea and Samaria must pursue their complex mission even after the television report.

CBS Film Shown in W. Europe

TA261639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] At noon today television stations in France and Western Europe screened a CBS film showing four IDF soldiers physically abusing two Arab youths for a long time and then breaking their arms. This was done after the youths stoned the soldiers.

Our correspondent in Paris Michel Zlotowski reports reactions of shock in Europe following the screening of the film. Israel's ambassador in Paris appeared on television and said the incident was an anomaly. Israel's ambassador in London also appeared on television, calling the action an aberration.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe says that the television crew showed the film to the IDF authorities, and the commander of the Central Command ordered an immediate investigation by the Military Police. The CBS correspondent was helicoptered to Nabulus to help identify the soldiers involved in the incident. Our correspondent adds that the film was shot from a distance by an Israeli cameraman who works for the U.S. television network.

Mitzna' To Close 'Trouble Spots' to Media

TA291304 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen and Avino'am Bar-Yosef

[Excerpt] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, has decided that trouble spots in Judaea and Samaria will be closed to media access on Fridays and declared "a closed military zone—off-limits to journalists."

Fridays are usually prone to riots because the worshippers are stirred up during the prayers in the mosques. Last Friday, the towns of Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Janin were closed to media coverage. Towns and villages will be closed to journalists as long as there is a fear of or prior information about the possibility of riots and disturbances.

Many villages in the territories have begun "to declare their independence" in recent weeks and to block access with rocks and other objects, making it difficult for the IDF to gain entry. Almost the entire length of the Ramallah-Bi'r Zayt-Umm Safa'-'Abud axis was blocked off yesterday.

Unidentified people rolled rocks normally used for terrace agriculture into the middle of the road, which was transformed into an obstacle path. Not a single military vehicle was seen between Ramallah and Umm Safa' at noon. Many youths stood on hilltops on the sides of the

road near B'ir Zayt University and used slingshots to hurl stones and marbles at passing Israeli cars, which were forced to slow down because of the roadblocks.

Just west of 'Abud lies the small village of Dayr Abu Mash'al, which the IDF has not entered for years. The entrance to the village was closed off to vehicles yesterday. Masked men stood at the entrance to the village, brandishing truncheons. They said they had worked in Israel until deciding to join the struggle. "We have stocked up on food, and we have vegetables from the fields. Instead of selling them to the Jews, the inhabitants of the village eat them," they said. Since the closure, the IDF has not entered the village, and if it tries the soldiers will face tough resistance, they say. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 29 February reports: "The IDF has no intention of changing its policies regarding the treatment of residents of the territories and media coverage of events there. This is reported by the Voice of Israel's military correspondent Karmela Menashe, quoting a senior army source. Yesterday Likud ministers in the Cabinet called for tougher action in putting down disturbances and for a ban on media access. The senior source also said that all soldiers on duty in the territories will now be briefed the moment they begin their service there on how to behave regarding demonstrations and arrests."]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Qabatiyah Investigation Results

TA271957 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman said this evening that an IDF investigation into the Qabatiyah incident in which a local inhabitant was murdered by a mob showed that after receiving information on what was happening in the village, the IDF acted to free the attacked man.

It was impossible to save the man given the circumstances and the short time frame. The investigation also showed that it took less than 2 hours between the time the information was received until the tragic end of the affair.

The IDF acted and will continue to act to defend the lives of local residents, the announcement said.

Peace Now, KAKH, Arabs Protest

TA272052 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpts] There were demonstrations in Jerusalem again this evening. There was a mass demonstration by Peace Now near the Chief Rabbinate in the center of the capital. Not far away there was a counterdemonstration by KAKH. The police formed a human barrier between the two camps. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports on the Peace Now demonstration:

The headline for the Peace Now demonstration this evening was: We must say yes to the Shultz peace initiative. Another main slogan was: The battle for peace will also be decided on Israel's streets, and we will be there.

The rightists' demonstration was held not far away under different slogans. [passage omitted]

The nationalist camp staged their demonstration this evening not far from the presidential residence in Jerusalem. They said they had come to demonstrate support for the prime minister, and to protest against any attempt to give up territories of Eretz Yisra'el.

Crowds of placard-carrying youths, including members of Betar [Herut's youth movement], Bney 'Aqiva [National Religious Party's youth movement], and Gush Emunim flowed into the nearby square an hour after the end of the Sabbath. The police were reinforced to maintain order and to prevent any possible clash between the demonstrators of the nationalist camp and those belonging to Peace Now several hundred meters away. The fear was proved wrong because the Peace Now demonstration ended even before the demonstration by the nationalist camp began.

Our correspondent Beni Liss reports that the square filled slowly, and it was apparent that it was a spontaneous gathering. They danced and sang for quite some time while raising flags and slogans. This is the start of the war for all of Eretz Yisra'el, one of the demonstrators said. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in the Arab sector, there were two demonstrations in solidarity with the struggle of the inhabitants of the territories. The demonstrations were in Shefar'am and Umm al-Fahm. Both received police permits. The demonstrations passed quietly and there was no need for intervention by the large police and border police forces deployed in both places. [passage omitted]

3 Killed in 26 Feb Riots

TA261731 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Three inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip died today in demonstrations following prayers in mosques.

One man was killed by blows to the face in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. An IDF check showed that there were no bullet wounds on his body, and it appears he was killed by a stone thrown during a riot.

The second fatality occurred during a riot in Hebron. An IDF investigation showed there were no bullet wounds on his body and no signs of mutilation.

The body of the third victim, a resident of Al-'Arrub, was brought to a Hebron hospital.

The IDF is investigating the circumstances in which the three were killed.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two residents of Halhul and four of Hebron sustained slight leg wounds when IDF soldiers fired to disperse rioters.

Woman Killed in Tubas 26 Feb

TA261859 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Four people were killed in today's incidents in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Riots took place in the town of Tubas at the end of Friday prayers. A local youngster pulled out a knife toward an IDF officer. The latter opened fire, and a woman standing behind the assailant was killed. [passage omitted]

2 Killed, 7 Wounded in W. Bank

TA271848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Two Arabs were killed in the Hebron area during violent demonstrations. Reporter Steve Rodan says one Arab was killed and seven other injured during a riot in Halhul just outside Hebron. Another Arab from the Al-'Arrub refugee camp was brought dead on arrival to Al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem. Military sources say they believe he was killed in connection with the violent demonstration in Al-'Arrub earlier today.

In the incident, youths blocked the Jerusalem-Hebron highway. The Army arrived on the scene and tried to disperse the demonstrators and open the road to traffic. Soldiers first used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the mob, and when that failed troops opened fire.

Other violent demonstrations were reported in the Hebron suburbs of Al-Zahiriyah, Bani Na'im and Bayt 'Ummar.

Military sources say there is a curfew from Hebron to the 'Ezyon Bloc just south of Bethlehem. Jewish residents, however, are allowed to pass through the area.

Violent demonstrations were also reported in Bethlehem. Arab youths set up roadblocks at the entrance to the city this afternoon and threw empty bottles at an army patrol. The soldiers dispersed the rioters by firing rubber bullets. [passage omitted]

Arab unrest was reported in Jerusalem as well. In the refugee camp of Shu'fat police dispersed a mob with rubber bullets and tear gas. Several arrests were made.

7 Killed in 'Bloody' Rioting

TA280714 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Bradley Burston]

[Excerpt] Seven Palestinians were killed and at least 22 wounded in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during a bloody weekend of rioting which centred on Hebron and surrounding villages.

Over 30 of the 74 Palestinians who have died since the start of the uprising in the territories were killed this month, as the army has apparently reverted to increased use of live ammunition against rioters. After the early days of the uprising, soldiers had been instructed to shoot less and beat more. [passage omitted]

2 Golan Druze Detained 28 Feb

TA280951 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The police have detained two Golan Druze for possession of a large quantity of inflammatory anti-Israeli material as well as slingshots with which they supposedly planned to throw stones at security forces personnel. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that the two were apprehended while making their way by cab to the Druze villages on the Golan.

Gazans Questioned on Appeal

TA281023 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Over the weekend, the military police questioned six of the eight Gaza Strip inhabitants who appealed to the High Court of Justice, claiming that they had been beaten and injured although they had nothing to do with order disruptions. Two of the appellants did not show up for the questioning due to the curfew that had been imposed on the Al-Shati' refugee camp where they reside.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the investigation of a soldier who shot and killed a Shaja'iyah resident approximately 1 month ago has ended. He is detained by virtue of a court order. The military judge advocate's office is reviewing the material to determine whether or not to press charges against the soldier.

4-Day Protest March Begins

TA281027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] A protest march over the events in the territories was launched at Rosh Haniqra this morning. The march will last 4 days and will end in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the march is organized by a group calling itself Qav Adom [Red Line] and hundreds

have joined it. Among them are [HADASH] Knesset Member Tawfiq Tubi, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, [Arab local council official], Dov Yirmiya, and local kibbutz members.

Soldier Held for Murder

TA281111 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Eytan Mor]

[Excerpts] An enlisted man is under detention on suspicion of having killed a Gazan. According to eyewitness accounts, the soldier stuck his gun in the local resident's stomach and fired a magazine-load of bullets, killing the man.

The investigation of the death of the local resident began after soldiers belonging to the suspect's unit reported the incident to their superiors. As soon as word got out about the case, it was reported to the commander of the Southern Command, and the military police were instructed to investigate the circumstances of the affair. [passage omitted]

According to the investigation, the soldier, who is serving in a combat unit, was apparently unfit to serve in a fighting unit. On the day of the incident, he reached the Gaza Strip and was dispatched to his unit, which was deployed in a military installation in the area. As he was traveling to his unit's installation, the vehicle in which he had hitched a ride got stuck in an assembly of local residents. Some of the inhabitants hurled rocks at the vehicle, and one stone even hit it.

According to the accounts, the soldier became highly agitated and hit the trigger by mistake. As a result, a bullet was fired but, miraculously, it did not hit anyone. Then he got out of the vehicle and, along with other soldiers, pursued the stone throwers. According to eyewitnesses, he caught a local and shot him suddenly with the intention of killing him.

One of the soldiers who was questioned supported the suspect's version that the local had made a gesture that could have been understood as an attempt to snatch the suspect's personal weapon.

The soldier, who was detained by order of a senior IDF officer, has been brought before a military judge in a court in the south and was remanded in custody. The military judge advocate unit that investigated the incident will press charges against him within the next few days.

If it is decided to accuse him of murder, this will be the first case since the Litani Operation in which a soldier is held on such serious charges. Senior IDF elements are viewing the case with extreme gravity, contending that it merits a probe of the various procedures related to the stationing of the soldier in a fighting unit. In the course of the investigation, it was decided that the soldier undergo a psychiatric examination to determine his mental state.

Blockade on W. Bank Village

TA281117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The IDF has imposed a blockade on the village of 'Abud near Ramallah in anticipation of the burial of two villagers who were killed last night in a riot. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that senior IDF officers are currently investigating the events that took place in the village last night.

In Al-Zahiriyah there was a riot this morning in the course of which tires were burned and roadblocks were erected. Local youths also threw stones at IDF soldiers and vehicles traveling along the Beersheba-Jerusalem highway. An IDF unit dispersed the rioters.

2 Die of Injuries in 'Abud

TA281216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpts] Last night there was a disturbance in the village of 'Abud, in the course of which tires were burned, roadblocks were placed on the main road, and youths threw stones at the security forces. While the IDF soldiers were dispersing the rioters, Jewish settlers from the area who were apparently driving home also arrived at the site.

Two 'Abud residents were rushed to the hospital in Ramallah during the night, and later died of their injuries. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of their deaths. This raised to nine the weekend casualty toll. [passage omitted]

This morning, too, there were cases of stone throwing near the Halhul mosque. The IDF soldiers quickly dispersed the stonethrowers.

Compared to the severity of the incidents last week, a relative calm can be felt in the territories. The laborers left for work, and the general strike is no longer in effect, although the commercial strike is continuing. [passage omitted]

Neve Zuf Settler Arrested

TA281834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] A resident of the settlement of Neve Zuf was arrested today on suspicion of having opened fire at inhabitants of the village of 'Abud near Ramallah yesterday. Two local inhabitants were killed in the incident. Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned that the

settler will be brought before a judge tomorrow. The police today interrogated three Neve Zuf settlers in connection with this incident.

MK Druckman's Car Stoned

TA281242 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Druckman's car was stoned near Hebron at noon. Nobody was hurt. The stonethrowers escaped from the site, and the IDF soldiers did not intervene.

Suspected Collaborators Attacked

TA281334 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] Two houses were set on fire in Kafr Qalil and Bayt Iba in the Nabulus region when the residents were accused by their neighbors of collaboration with the security forces. There were no casualties but heavy damage was caused. Senior Arab elements in the territories are again threatening that they will punish anybody who cooperates with the IDF and the state of Israel. [passage omitted]

This time, unlike with Qabatiyah, the IDF arrived on the scene rapidly. Firemen of the Civilian Administration managed to control the fires. [passage omitted]

Avino'am Bar-Yosef reports:

Detentions were carried out yesterday in the village of Al-'Ubaydiyat after an attempt was made there to kill a local resident charged with collaboration. Substantial army forces raided this Bethlehem-area village at dawn yesterday and detained 32 residents suspected of participating in the attack on this local resident. Eyewitnesses said the detainees were severely beaten during and after the arrest. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 February in a report on page 4 adds that: "A Jerusalem municipal worker, an Arab who resides in East Jerusalem, was attacked yesterday afternoon by a group of youths who suspected him of collaboration with Israel. The man was warned by the youths to stop his work for the municipality since this is a symbol of cooperation with the Israelis." Also, "It has been learned that residents in several Jerusalem area villages were attacked on suspicion of collaboration with Israel. Several residents were beaten, while others were threatened. As far as is known, the victims are not cooperating with Israel."]

2 U.S. Teachers Detained

TA281341 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Two U.S. teachers from the territories were detained by the police and released a day later. The two were detained because inciting material was found in their possession. The two, John (Benvenuto) and Ellison Glick, were detained in Ramallah on Saturday. The two teach in the Christian Quakers school there and were detained after instigatory material was found in their possession. They had been seen in centers of riots several times. They were released after a night at the detention center.

Torture Suspects Released

TA291032 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The four soldiers and officer suspected of having tortured two stone throwers in Nabulus have been released. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that their release was decided upon in a consultation between the commander of the Central Command and the military judge advocate. The military police investigation into the affair has ended. The military advocate of the Central Command has received the file, and he will decide what legal proceeding to take.

3 Soldiers Indicted for Torture

TA291656 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Indictments against the three IDF soldiers charged with involvement in the burying alive of Arab residents of the village of Salim were filed a short while ago in the Central Command's military court. The three are Sergeant Major Charlie Danino, Private Ya'ir Nisimi, and Private Dror Segen-Toren. They are charged with unlawful assault against and torture of four of the village residents.

Our correspondent Yasmin Qeyni reports that Sgt Danino is also charged with conduct unbecoming his rank. He is suspected of influencing his driver in the process of the investigation, and of commanding him to give false testimony by saying that they were both away at the time of the event.

Arabs Conflict Over Aid

TA271220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Aid to residents of the territories has caused a sharp dispute between the organizations engaged in fund-raising activities and the religious circles among the Israeli Arabs. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that in Umm al-Fahm and in other Arab villages, groups which belong to the Muslim Brotherhood movement collect money, clothes, and food and transfer them to the Islamic Jihad in the territories.

This conflicts with decisions made by the Committee of Leaders of Arab Local Councils. The fund-raising action committees today issued a manifesto in which they accuse the religious circles in the Triangle villages of separatism and sowing divisions.

Jewish Pamphlet Warns Arabs

TA291123 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Pamphlets are being distributed in Arab villages in the territories, calling on them to halt the disturbances. The pamphlet says the Arabs are misreading the army's restraint, which does not stem from weakness. Written in Hebrew and Arabic, it is signed: Jewish Citizens for the Land of Israel.

But reporter Avshalom Ginosar says it is being put out by Amana, the Gush Emunim settlement movement. The pamphlet warns that Jews will no longer turn the other cheek and that Jewish blood will not be forfeit. It ends by saying that the Arabs themselves should be interested in preventing an Israeli withdrawal, because in its wake, war would follow. The result, the Gush Emunim pamphlet concludes, would be that not one Arab would remain in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

George Shultz Arrives in Amman for Talks 27 Feb

JN270810 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Amman—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Amman this morning on a brief visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and Prime Minister Zayd al- Rifa'i. Shultz was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the acting Amman mayor, the Amman governor, the Amman police chief, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Holds Talks, Departs

JN271324 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, this morning received at the Royal Court George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri attended the meeting. Shultz' delegation and the U.S. ambassador in Amman also attended the talks.

Shortly before the U.S. secretary of state flew off, the foreign minister gave a press statement. Al-Masri said His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Mr Shultz with delegations on both sides present. The sides held serious and useful talks on how best to proceed toward a peaceful, just, comprehensive, lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli dispute, said the foreign minister.

Al-Masri added: We in Jordan see an international conference grouping the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties to the dispute, including the PLO, as the only route leading to a peaceful solution. It must provide for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab land and assurance of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their future, said the foreign minister.

He welcomed the U.S. interest in reactivating the peace process and hoped Washington's consultations with the USSR and the parties concerned will lead to the convocation of the international conference.

Al-Masri pointed out Jordan will press on with the dialogue with Shultz in pursuit of comprehensive peace.

The U.S. secretary of state also gave a press statement, saying Crown Prince Hasan was gracious to see him and his delegation. His talks with the crown prince, the regent, Shultz said, were constructive and comprehensive. The purpose of his visit to the region is to work toward a comprehensive peace that achieves prosperity and security, the secretary said. The United States will pursue its efforts toward that end, he added.

Shultz left Amman at noon today. On hand to see him off were Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the acting mayor of Amman, the governor of the capital, its police chief, and the U.S. ambassador.

Al-Rifa'i Briefs Ministers on Talks With Shultz

JN271839 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session under [Prime Minister] Zayd al-Rifa'i this evening. At the beginning of the session, Al-Rifa'i presented the results of the talks held this morning between the Jordanian side, led by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and the U.S. side, led by Secretary of State George Shultz.

The prime minister said the talks deeply and intensively dealt with ways to attain a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the meeting, which lasted more than 3 hours, Shultz presented the broad outlines of the new U.S. initiative toward the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

The two sides held a discussion on the principles of the new U.S. initiative, as presented by Shultz, based on the closeness or departure of the initiative's elements from the principles of the Arab stand, which objects to separate or partial settlements.

The Arab stand also adheres to the convening of an international peace conference in the presence of the five permanent Security Council member states and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, in order to achieve a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, in a way that secures a settlement of all aspects of the Palestine question and the regaining of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The prime minister pointed out the talks were characterized by seriousness, frankness, and a desire to make successful the international efforts aimed at bringing about a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

U.S. Still 'Revolving Within Israeli Orbit'

JN270855 Amman SAWT AL-SHAB in Arabic
27 Feb 88 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The U.S. Proposal Is Still Old"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has not said anything new up to now. The words he reiterated before journalists and those who met him in Israel and through which he tried to pose as the messenger of peace were still within the usual conventional framework. Those words neither brought new concepts nor indicated a new course.

The U.S. stand is still revolving within the Israeli orbit, repeating the same ready-made expressions, and calling for direct negotiations through which Israel wants to consolidate the occupational gains it has achieved through aggression.

When Shultz spoke about Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, he failed to determine the framework through which these resolutions should be discussed. He also failed to refer to the international peace conference, which is the only acceptable framework toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the region.

This framework was accepted by the Arabs and the world at large but was rejected by Israel. U.S. support for this Israeli rejection is posing as an obstacle to peace.

Shultz' appeal to the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories on producing a leadership that can talk with him also did not produce any new concept. It did not go beyond the Israeli desire nor did it present anything new.

The Palestinians with whom Shultz wants to meet are now in a new position with new facts created by the heroic popular uprising, which is still facing a harsh Israeli occupation. The uprisings demanding the elimination of this occupation and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to their territory and homeland.

So far, the U.S. secretary does not want to recognize these new facts, although he is aware of them. He wants to face these facts with the old ideas that the Israeli leadership has helped formulate in advance.

If the region, now being visited by Shultz, has reached a state of tension requiring any effort to advance the peace process, we sincerely hope that the United States will make an effort to go beyond the old narrow-minded concepts inspired by Israel and play a more constructive role in the peace process, commensurate with its position as a superpower responsible for peace.

The Arabs, who have welcomed every international contribution to the peace process, still aspire for a complete, comprehensive settlement. They still see an opportunity to achieve peace and escape the deadlock and partiality toward Israel to gain a wider and more comprehensive scope—hence the Arab welcome of the need to exchange opinions with the U.S. secretary, to discuss his ideas, and to give him the opportunity to talk in a suitable atmosphere.

The Arabs, who are advocates of peace, are interested in listening to all the proposals, following their past experiences with Israeli and U.S. stands, which were hunted down by Arab rejection and by the seizing of any opportunity to foil any peace initiative even before it had been raised.

George Shultz will find before him a cohesive Arab stand based on the political principles built by the historic Amman summit and consolidated by our people's uprising in the occupied territory.

The visiting secretary will also find that the policy led by His Majesty King Husayn is firm, objective, credible, and fully in charge of the Arab march toward peace.

The Arabs are not responsible for the disruption of the peace prospects. The responsiblity lies with the divided Israeli aggressive occupationist policies and the unsteady pro-Israel U.S. policies, which only consider a peace that serves Israel and its policies.

We feel the ball is still in the U.S. court and it is the Israelis who are alone disrupting peace prospects and holding every U.S. initiative at ransom.

'Open Letter' to Shultz on Israel, Uprising

JN270846 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 88 p 4

["Open letter" to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz from "Jordanian women and mothers" on the occasion of his visit to the Middle East—date not given]

[Text] We the undersigned, women and mothers in Jordan who believe in the complete unity of both Jordanian and Palestinian people, feel it is time for us to raise our voices and announce our honest and true feelings regarding a peace settlement in the Middle East.

We Jordanians and Palestinians are one people, and we feel that it is our duty as mothers of our youth (and we are sure that all mothers of the world's youth would agree with us) to express our genuine consciousness and declare to the world at large, and to the USA in particular, the real peace needed in this area. The true and real peace must be an honourable one, characterised by honesty, integrity and straightforwardness, and free from any fraud to all parties concerned. Only then, a just and comprehensive and durable peace will prevail in this turbulent part of the world, which is caused by the Israel's constant aggression.

The American secretary of state, George Shultz, is visiting with us here in Jordan, and of course, he has visited this part of the world many times before. No doubt, he truly knows the crux of the whole problem of the Middle East, and the suffering of the people under Israeli occupation. He knows that Israel occupies Arab land, has annexed the city of Jerusalem and considers it its perpetual capital, has annexed the Golan Heights, invaded Lebanon, still occupies its southern part and tries to force its subjugation by the barrel of the gun.

Shultz also knows that Israel threatens Arab achievements and progress, and we remind him of how Israel raided and bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor. He knows that Israeli war planes raid Palestinians wherever they

are, and kill them daily, thinking that by such action Israel will annihilate them and bury its guilty conscience towards them. He also knows that Israel refuses all U.N. resolutions regarding the inalienable rights of the Palestinain people, refuses all international resolutions regarding the necessity of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East, with complete disregard for the international will. He knows what is going inside the occupied lands, and how much suffering and humiliation the people are enduring from the Israeli occupation authorities.

Shultz knows how the international journalists and their cameras unveiled the true and real face of the occupation force, its most inhuman and barbaric practices against the innocent, crushed, subjugated and defenceless youth in the occupied territories, which makes us feel sick to the depth of our being. Shultz understands that the uprising of the Palestinian youth is a natural reaction to the humiliation and the misery they find themselves in, and that it is also a voice crying for justice and freedom, and for a rejection of occupation. Shultz knows very well, as does all the world, that frankly, without American full support and blessings, Israel would not have gone so far in its brutality and disrespect for the cosnci-ence of the international community.

We, women and mothers in Jordan, frankly feel that America stands on the side of aggression and occupation, and against justice and peace. How could America, which claims to believe in the dignity of man, in democracy, and in freedom and liberty with their flesh and blood? How could the American people violate their own constitutional rights, of which they feel so proud, when it comes to the oppressed Arab youth of the occupied territories?

The people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the other occupied territories want to live peacefully, and to be able to provide and protect their children, just like all the other children of the world. The youth of the occupied territories have aspirations and dreams, just like all other youth of the universe. We, women and mothers in Jordan, believe that all youth have the right to live, to freedom, dignity, self-respect, happiness and enjoyment of life, just as do the youth in America, Britain or France.

We are people of great history and civilisation, and our cultural achievments were transmitted to and contributed to the civilisation of the whole world. We love peace, and believe in cooperation between all the people of the world. We will not accept, and definitely will reject, all unjust peace settlements, and if Shultz' visit to our country is meant and aimed at aborting the uprising of the oppressed people in the occupied territories, and if he wishes to reiterate the same old Israeli ideas on an unjust peace, then it would be more practical and honourable for Shultz to stay home.

We are people of dignity and understanding, of education and self-respect, and we say that the people in the occupied territories were subjected to many, many massacres and much suffering, as you know very well, and they have no other alternative but to continue their uprising until they achieve their freedom and liberty for they are determined to refuse a mere change of uniform. We, also, are determined to give them our full support, and we will stand on their side all the way, until they achieve liberty.

We want you, Shultz, to convey the following peace message to the government of your country, the USA. Very clearly we tell you that no just peace in the Middle East can be attained except after the complete withdrawal of the Israelis from all occupied territories. Then, peaceful negotiations can take place at an international conference for peace in the Middle East, within the framework of the Untied Nations and under its auspices, with the participation of the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and with the participation of the permanent member states of the Security Council, and with the participation of the other parties concerned with the conflict in the area.

Then, and only then, a just, comprehensive and durable peace can be achieved in the Middle East. [item is acompanied by facsimilies of 51 signatures]

Further Reports on 2 Kidnapped UNRWA Employees

UNRWA Expects Release 'Soon'

NC271734 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1723 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Per Olof Hallquist, UNRWA's director of operations in Lebanon, has stated that UNRWA employees Stening and Jorgensen will be released soon. In a statement he issued following a meeting he held in Sidon today with Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular organization, Hallquist asserted that the two hostages have not been involved in any improper political activity. He said he considers their abduction, from its beginning and until its expected happy ending, a grave error.

He left after the meeting for Vienna, the main UNRWA headquarters.

Abductors Promise Release

NC270820 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] An organization calling itself the Revolutionary Cells has claimed responsibility for the abduction of UNRWA employyes Jan Stening and William Jorgensen. In a statement handed to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the organization said: We are still interrogating the two employees on the basis of the preliminary information we have. We promise to release the two employees after their interrogation.

The organization called on UNRWA to rescind its decision to suspend its services in Lebanon.

The statement bore the signatures and fingerprints of the two UNRWA employees, each of which said in the statement that he is in good health and expressed the hope that he will be released very soon.

Statements Released

NC262242 Paris AFP in English 2233 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, Feb 26 (AFP)—A previously unknown Lebanese group calling itself The Revolutionary Cells on Friday claimed the kidnapping of two Scandinavians working for a United Nations relief agency.

A statement in Arabic was sent to a Western news agency accompanied by two sentences purportedly written by the hostages and by two fingerprints.

The communique said that the two, Jan Stening of Sweden and William Jorgensen of Norway, were being "interrogated."

"We promise everybody that they will be released once their interrogation is finished," it said.

The handwritten statement signed by Mr. Stening said: "I am in good health and I hope that I will be released soon."

That signed by Mr. Joergensen said: "I am in good health and am eating good. Also I hope to be released very soon." [passage omitted]

[Paris AFP in English at 2141 GMT on 26 February adds: "The two, officials of the U.S. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), were kidnapped by hooded gunmen near the southern port city of Tyre on February 5.

The kidnappers have already sent statements accompanied by the same hand writing and finger prints, but this was the first time an organization had put its name to the abductions."]

The abductions, which were followed on February 17 by that of a high-ranking U.S. officer working for another U.S. agency in Southern Lebanon, have brought threats from UNRWA to reduce or even end its relief work in the region.

Friday's statement said that such a decision would be "unjustified", and called on the U.S. body to remain in the region. [passage omitted]

Reportedly Held in Sidon

NC291243 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1225 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] According to information received by Voice of Lebanon, the two UNRWA employees are still being detained in the Sidon area, specifically in the Al-Iskandarani quarter. The employees are being held by members of the Islamic group [Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] headed by Shaykh Mahir Hammud. The group has close links with Iran.

Salah Salah, secretary of the Palestinian Command in Lebanon and a Fatah official in the South, had earlier declared that fundamentalist groups are holding the two employees. Salah was compelled to identify those holding the two UNRWA employees without naming them after accusations were made that Fatah and 'Arafat's supporters had kidnapped the two employees and were holding them in 'Ayn al-Hulwah. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Higgins Kidnapping

Da'ud Denies Locating Higgins

NC261720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Da'ud Da'ud, chairman of the Amal Movement Executive Committee, held a news conference in Tyre at noon today. Da'ud said: We have opposed the kidnapping of U.S. officer William Higgins. We showed no leniency on this issue lest more kidnappings should take

place. He affirmed that the Amal Movement will confront, with all determination and firmness, the kidnapping of foreigners in the South.

Da'ud denied reports broadcast over certain radios that the movement has located the whereabouts of the kidnapped officer. He said: We have said that Colonel Higgins is still in the south—either south of Litani or north of it—but we never specified the village, the town, or the place where he is being held.

He added: When I said yesterday that we are unable to maintain security, I did not mean the material aspect of security, but the moral aspect. We had only two options: Either to preserve security, for which we have been accused of being agents, or to get involved in Shi'ite-Shi'ite fighting. Consequently, we reject infighting and prefer to give up our security responsibility.

Da'ud described the events in Al-Duwayr yesterday as an isolated incident. He affirmed that the search for Lieutenant Colonel Higgins will continue, although the security-issue will take precedence.

Higgins 'No Longer in the Area'

NC282040 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Da'ud Da'ud, Amal Movement official in the south, has played down the Amal Movement's ability to find William Higgins, the American UN officer who was kidnapped 11 days ago. He said that the Amal Movement is determined to find Higgins, but it has not been able to find him yet because he is apparently no longer in the area.

Goksel Says UN Unconvinced

NC290619 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 AGMT 29feb 88

[Text] UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has announced that the UN forces are convinced Higgins is still being held in southern Lebanon.

Higgins 'Coordinated' Resistance

NC271542 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Hizballah has accused abducted U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Higgins of having been entrusted by the United States with the task of coordinating the fight against anti-Israeli resistance, and said this task had been given priority over the collection of information about Hizballah. This has been reported by the magazine AL-'AHD, Hizballah's mouthpiece.

Amal Seeks Peaceful Resolution

NC271436 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] An Amal official has asserted, in a statement to AFP, that his movement is carrying out indirect contacts with Hizballah officials in order to attain a peaceful settlement of the kidnapping of U.S. officer Richard Higgins. The Amal official, who asked not to be identified, added that the contacts with Hizballah are designed to ease the tension that followed the U.S. officer's abduction. He said that U.S. officials, who have not made a move to release their hostages, are making statements about Higgins in order to foment Amal-Hizballah conflicts.

He asked: Why do we have to act for them and subject ourselves to the risk of internecine conflicts? AFP cites an informed source in Tyre as saying that the release of officer Higgins has now become impossible and he will meet the fate of other Western hostages. The agency notes that Amal has removed the checkpoints it had set up on the coastal road and the approach roads to the main towns in the Tyre area.

Sha'ban: Kidnap Every American

NC270709 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has criticized the Amal Movement. In a Friday sermon, Sha'ban asked why a group of people is concerned about U.S. officer Higgins who, with his country, has caused the world problems.

Sha'ban called for the kidnapping of every American until America recognizes the Islamic peoples' right to self-determination.

Further on Expulsion of Amal's Al-Dirani

Demands Expulsion Be Revoked

NC272132 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Mustafa al-Dirani, former security official in the Amal Movement, stated that he has received hundreds of cables of support, particularly from Amal offices abroad, stressing that the Amal leadership is again seeking to banish strugglers from their posts in the movement. He said: We condemn this rash decision and demand that it be revoked.

Amal Meeting Rejects Dismissals

NC290708 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] In a new step illustrating the divisions within Amal and the feebleness of Minister Birri's status inside the Movement, a meeting was held at the Amal headquarters in Burj al-Barajinah yesterday. At the meeting,

which included Amal officials, cadres, and members, a decision was reached rejecting the dismissal of Mustafa al-Dirani from his post as Amal central security official and Shaykh Adib Haydar from his post in the Central Cultural Department. The meeting demanded a radical reform within the Amal Movement to be carried out by the scholars and under the patronage of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

An Amal official considered this act a violation of the Movement's integrity and said it has resulted from dual loyalty, designed to hand over the process of decision-making regarding the South to foreign forces. The Amal official said that the people who convened the meeting assembled around themselves some of the individuals who have been affected by the reforms Amal has started to carry out to prevent internal violations. The Amal official added: It is futile for them to wrap themselves in the cloak of Imam al-Sadr's policy. They do not know him even by the name which they are trying to change, and they are receiving funds from abroad.

Amal Figures Stress Links, Commitment To Iran

NC291236 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The situation on the Lebanese scene remains much the same except for developments in the South in connection with the worsening of relations between Amal and Hizballah, which surfaced after the kidnapping of the U.S. Lieutenant Colonel william Richard Higgins. While the first conflict on the ground took place at the end of last week in the form of an armed attack by Hizballah members on an Aml roadblock in Al-Duwayr, another confrontation took place yesterday when the Amal movement prevented a Hizballah delegation, including the Hizballah military official 'Abbas Musawi, from travelling to Tyre.

In an attempt to control the situation, 'Aql Hamiyah, an Amal military official, announced that it is prohibited from setting up any military checkpoint or roadblock in [Beirut's southern] Suburb without permission from Amal's Military Bureau. Hamiyah called on the movement's members to adhere to the decisions of Amal's Organizational Bureau. He said: The legitimate right will return to its rightful owners and we will lead the battle to free Amal from foreigners [passage omitted]

At an Amal meeting held in Ba'labakk yesterday, the participants asserted that security in the south must remain in Amal hands. A statement read by Amal Political Bureau's member, 'Ali al-Husayni, said that the Amal Movement was established under the patronage of a religious leadership, that it professes Islam, and that it is committed to the orders of the wise and just legitimate leadership represented in Ayatollah Khomeyni. The statement emphasized the strategic relationship between Amal and the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria. The statement further noted: In our position of responsibility we have for several years encountered a bitter war between a group trying to turn the movement into a political party and a group that wants it to be an ideological movement.

Amal's cultural official Adib Haydar stated that the Amal Movement does not appear to have organizational or legitimate characteristics. He said that it has turned into a political party that deposes or appoints people as it pleases.

Hizballah Urges End to Certain Amal Practices

NC291312 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] A Hizballah official has released a statement saying: It is very regrettable that some Amal officials in the south continue to carry out acts against Muslim scholars, alleging that such acts are part of their responsibility to maintain security. They sometimes search their vehicles, and they sometimes prevent some of them and their escorts from entering the south.

The Hizballah official added: We urge all reasonable people to work to put an end to these practices. He said that if these acts continue and are not remedied, they are bound to rouse various reactions among the masses of our people who regard the religious scholars as their legitimate leaders, who represent their honor, dignity, and pride.

Baydun, Qabalan Defend Amal Position in South

NC290651 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Muhammad Baydun, member of the Amal Movement's Political Bureau, has stated the kidnapping of U.S. officer William Richard Higgins was tantamount to kidnapping the mission of the UN forces in the South. It was also tantamount to kidnapping the armistice agreement which Israel has always rejected and violated. He indicated that the armistice agreement is a document from the international community in Lebanon's hands to confront Israeli attacks.

Baydun was speaking at a religious ceremony in Khandaq al-Ghamiq Mosque [in West Beirut] last night. He expressed the belief that Higgins' kidnapping brings back to memory the main causes behind the camps war, namely that the security of the South is part of Lebanon's security, and that there can be no security in Lebanon without the security of the South.

Baydun emphasized that the Amal Movement will not allow any violation of this security because if this happens, it will open holes in a big wall. He also emphasized that the security of the South means not only the security of the citizens, but also the security of the resistance, which has adopted a strategy of liberation.

Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan then delivered a speech in which he stressed that the security of the South will remain in the hands of the Amal Movement until the state reestablishes its authority there. He said: We are against some raids and harassments, but we also will not allow a return to the situation that prevailed before 1982. We support the gunmen provided that they safeguard the security of the people.

Shaykh Qabalan said the Amal Movement represents a moderate line which must continue. The Amal Movement will not heed acrimonies. The Amal Movement is capable and strong. More importantly, all the movement's members are believers.

Fadlallah Denies Amal-Hizballah 'War' Exists

NC270707 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah yesterday denied that an inter-Shi'ite war had broken out. He called on both the Amal Movement and Hiazballah to exercise self-restraint, saying that they should not go to war for the sake of an American officer. He called on the UN not to allow the Americans to become involved in its work.

In an interview with the periodical MAGAZINE, Shaykh Fadlallah accused the international organizations in South Lebanon of working for the United States. He claimed that the French UNIFIL team is conducting a large-scale survey on the political and sectarian affiliations of the inhabitants of the southern Lebanese villages.

8 Wounded in Amal-Hizballah Clashes in South

NC271140 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 27Feb 88

[Text] Mahmud Faqih, Amal's organizational official in the South, has declared that life has returned to normal in the Al-Nabatiyah area following the clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in which eight people were wounded.

Faqih added that Hizballah has handed to Amal three persons accused of throwing a hand grenade at an Amal roadblock in the Al-Duwayr area. He said that the 3 people were handed over at the Amal Movement's security office in Al-Nabatiyah in the presence of Shaykh Ahmad al-Sadiq.

Birri Appeals to Khomeyni on Situation in South

NC291423 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] At a news conference this afternoon Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri appealed to Imam Khomeyni to send a special envoy to investigate the situation in the south. Minister Birri said he would accept in advance the envoy's decision.

Minister Birri went on to say that any decision affecting the south should not be made through prevailing methods. The issue is not one of kidnapping of a spy; rather it is an issue of (?money). Minister Birri questions the causes of the uproar over attacks and storming operations. He said most of these talks are dubious. Minister Birri denied reports that scholars had been prevented from moving in the South.

Asks Khomeyni for Envoy

NC291545 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Minister of State for the South and Reconstruction Affairs Nabih Birri declared today that decisions concerning the south should not be taken lightly, and he urged Imam Khomeyni to dispatch a special delegate to investigate incidents in the South. He said he would abide by the findings of such a delegate.

Speaking at a press conference, leader of the Amal Movement said that the recent kidnapping of an American officer serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Commission, and the kidnapping of the priest of Tyre, and the 16-year old Rula Furayj in West Beirut were all part of an attack on Iran and the Islamic revolution.

Birri noted that some elements of the media had tried to exploit recent incidents and cited reports carried by Phalangist, Israeli, and Lebanese Forces media. He said such reports, which try to blame Amal Movement, were obviously seeking to undermine the strong stand of Amal in the South.

He rejected accusations that Amal was defending American interests and described the kidnapping of the American officer as a direct challenge to the United Nations forces which were carrying out a positive role in Lebanon. The minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs accused well-known elements of instigating incidents and raised a number of questions related to movements by Hizballah personnel. He said that the latest incidents in Lebanon were an obvious attempt to embarrass the Iranian revolution and to bring a Shi'ite population into the [word indistinct].

Birri called on the Iranian authorities to put an end to such actions.

Notes Amal-Hizballah Conflict

NC291726 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri responded to Hizballah today concerning the ongoing conflict among Hizballah and Amal Movement cadres. He called on Amal and Hizballah elements to not obey their commanders'

orders to resort to arms, kidnap innocent people, and commit aggression against the history of the Shi'ites, noting that transferring the conflict within the movement will be futile.

Birri has asked Muslim ulema about the truth of the statements which level accusations against the Amal Movement, and speculated as to whether it is possible for an American national to be kidnapped in Iran. He asked: Are girls abducted in Iran? Is Rula Furayj [Palestinian schoolgirl recently kidnapped in West Beirut] a spy?

Birri appealed to Imam Khomeyni to dispatch a special delegate to investigate the case [situation in the South]. He stressed that the existence of bridgeheads inside the Amal Movement will not be allowed.

Qansuh Ousts Subordinate for Hizballah Contacts

NC261939 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that 'Asim Qansuh, secretary general of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, has relieved the official in charge of the organization's branch in Al-Biqa' of his post on the charge that he had dealings with undisciplined individuals from Hizballah, Palestinians, and 'Arafat supporters.

Iraqi Ba'th Party Member Killed in Sidon 27 Feb

NC270935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Sulayman 'Umar al-Buz, headmaster of Sidon's public school and Iraqi Ba'th Party member, was killed by gunmen who ambushed him on Al-Dalla'ah Street in Sidon this morning.

Group Claims 5 Syrians Killed in Tripoli

NC271712 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] In the north, the Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for attacking a Syrian occupation forces' position in the Mashru' Nahr Abu 'Ali Building in Al-qubbah in Tripoli last night. The group says that 5 Syrians were killed in the attack.

SLA Post Attacked, 3 'Saboteurs' Killed 27 Feb

NC281131 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A group of saboteurs attempted last night to advance toward a post manned by South Lebanese Army [SLA] in Bayt Yahun, Bint Jubayl District, as part of the saboteurs' unsuccessful attempts to make up for their losses and lift their morale. The saboteurs' attempt was made under cover of RPG and machinegun fire.

The troops manning the post returned fire, using the appropriate weapons. The bodies of three saboteurs, as well as some weaponry and ammunition, were found this morning during a search operation. [passage omitted]

4 'Saboteurs' Killed in Clash With SLA 27 Feb

NC270723 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has repulsed an attack carried out by a group of saboteurs against SLA posts in Kafr Falus last night. Reports say that the saboteurs began their attack under cover of intensive artillery shelling directed at the SLA positions in Al-Mashnaqah and Kafr Falus from the Kafr Jarrah, Al-Salihiyah, Baysur, and Barti areas. The SLA troops forced their assailants to retreat. The attackers left behind weapons and ammunition, as well as the bodies of those of them that were killed in the fighting.

Immediately afterward, the SLA men searched the area and found the bodies of four saboteurs. The corpses are still lying on the battleground.

Nasirites Claim Responsibility

NC271122 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Responsible sources in the Nasirite organization in Sidon have said that five members of the organization's Popular Liberation Army were killed at dawn today during an attack on South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions on the Kafr Falus axis.

The Popular Liberation Army released a statement saying the five were killed when they attacked a post jointly held by Israeli forces and the SLA. The attack was carried out to mark the anniversary of the assassination of Ma'ruf Sa'd. The statement added that the militiamen were able to evacuate one of the bodies from the area and that the four groups which carried out the assault destroyed a number of SLA military vehicles.

Further Reportage on Israeli Activities in South

2 Palestinians Killed in Boat

NC280953 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has confirmed that two Palestinian fighters were killed when their boat was sunk by two Israeli boats off the Lebanese coast last night. The Movement added that the Israelis set the rubber boat ablaze, but disclosed that three of those on board it managed to return to the shore safely.

Security sources noted that the attack took place off the area of Ra's al-Bayyadah last night. The same sources added that Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre and the nearby Palestinian camps immediately afterward, firing illuminating flares.

Fatah Claims Sending Boat

NC290623 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The Fatah movement has claimed reponsibility for sending out a boat carrying gunmen which the Israeli Navy sank off the Sidon coast 2 days ago. Fatah sources in Sidon said this armed group had been sent to attack Nahariyya to avenge the killing of three Palestinian officials in Cyprus 2 weeks ago.

Flights Over Sidon, Camps

NC262004 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabicto Lebanon 2000 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli fighters lfew over Sidon and the nearby camps this evening, dropping flares. The planes were confronted with ground defense fire.

Helicopter Sorties 27 Feb

NC272011 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli Helicopters flew above Sidon and the nearby camps this evening firing flares over the area. In the meantime, fierce clashes involving the use of various types of weapons were raging along the Kafr Falus-Liba'-'Ayn al-Mir combat lincs.

Houses Destroyed

NC280614 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The outskirts of the towns of Bra'shit and Tibnin came under artillery fire yesterday from the positions of the occupation forces and the agents in Tallat Haddathah. Meanwhile, the Irish positions in Bayt Yahun and Bra'shit came under sniper fire.

The occupation and agent forces added a new crime to their record yesterday. They blew up the house of Al-Hajj 'Abd al-Mun'im Ghazal in Al-Qantarah town, which has been under siege for more than 1 month, in the central sector. Both Ghazal and his wife were killed. They also blew up the mosque in the town. Several houses were extensively damaged as a result of the savage shelling of the town.

Resistance Attacks Positions

NC280901 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The Imam al-Mahdi Company of the Lebanese resistance battalions attacked the Bayt Yahun position with rockets and medium-and small-caliber weapons last night. A 15-minute clash ensued resulting in the destruction of an M-13 armed personnel carrier and some bunkers and several casualties.

The occupation forces and their agents then raked the area with shells fired by mortars and tanks, injuring four resistance fighters, who were moved to the hospital.

The Israeli enemy's forces also shelled the towns of Haddathah and 'Ayta al-Jabal, and the outskirts of Bayt Yahun. Helicopters flew over the scene of the operation, dropping flares until 0100 this morning.

At 2120, Israeli enemy gunboats clashed with an unidentified rubber boat, which was burned. It has been reported that two persons were killed when the coast of Tyre was raked. Enemy gunboats were sighted off the coast of Tyre at 0230.

A spokesman for the Israeli enemy's army said that a Navy patrol sank a small boat off Tyre coast last night.

According to reports from the South, the occupation forces and their agents in Jabal al-Safi and Tallat al-Radar were attacked by resistance men last night. The enemy's forces and agents retaliated by shelling the towns of Jba', Kafr Fila, and Kafr Milki.

Patrol Ambushed 28 Feb

NC282046 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The Abu al-Fadl al-'Abbas group of the Faithful Resistance has ambushed an enemy patrol on the Tuhrah-Al-Suwaydah Road. The resistance men attacked the patrol, which consisted of an Israeli jeep and an agent troop carrier, with machine guns and rockets. The jeep was destroyed, the troop carrier was put out of commission, and all of the vehicles' passengers were either killed or wounded. Israeli helicopters hovered over the scene of the operation.

Reportage on Visit to Damascus by George Shultz

Arrives 27 Feb

JN271226 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria. He was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Talks With Al-Asad, Al-Shar'

JN271714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his delegation at 1715 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador William Eagleton were present. The talks, which were still under way at news time, center on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This afternoon an official round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry between the Syrian Arab side led by Faruq al-Shar' and the U.S. side led by Shultz. Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs; Dia'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Dr Ahmad Saqr, U.S. desk chief; and Walid al-Mu'allim, special bureau chief, attended the talks.

Taking part on the U.S. side were Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state; Charles Redmann, State Department spokesman; Wat Cluverius, head of the Studies and Planning Department; and the U.S. Ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed the popular uprising in the occupied Arab land dramatizing Arab rejection of continued Israeli occupation, and the need to give the Palestinian Arab people their national, inalienable rights.

More on Al-Asad-Shultz Talks

JN271923 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his delegation at 1715 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador William Eagleton were present. They discussed the Arab-Israeli dispute and the popular uprising against Israeli occupation of the Arab land.

They also discussed the American ideas brought by Shultz. The Syrian side has found these ideas cannot lead to a just, comprehensive solution.

His excellency the president emphasized Syria's concern to see a just, comprehensive settlement in place. The president stressed that a UN-sponsored international conference grouping all the parties including the PLO is the best route to that end.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN272144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Damascus at 2100 today following a short visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the assistant foreign minister, the chief of the U.S. desk at the Foreign Ministry, the chief of protocol, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement before leaving Damascus International Airport, Shultz said: I have just finished holding full talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and before this with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The talks dealt with ideas regarding the peace process, the situation in Lebanon, and other issues pertaining to international affairs.

He added: I listened to the president's ideas. I am very grateful for the arrangement of this meeting and for allowing me and the accompanying delegation to listen to President Hafiz al-Asad's ideas.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also made a statement in which he said: We had the opportunity today to closely listen to the U.S. ideas brought by Mr Shultz. We expressed our opinion in a clear and frank manner. However, we did not reach an agreement.

He added: Our ideas are well-known. We believe a solution in the Middle East cannot be achieved without ending the Israeli occupation of all the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national rights in accordance with UN resolutions.

The foreign minister stressed this solution can be discussed at an international conference under UN auspices to be attended by the UN Security Council five permanent member states and the parties concerned, including the PLO. He affirmed that partial and separate solutions cannot settle the problem, but will further complicate it.

Regarding whether Syria is ready to resume talks with Shultz, Al-Shar' said: We will continue to search for the best means to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the crisis in the region.

'Official' Source: 'Difference in Viewpoints'

JN281310 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] It has become definite today that the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Damascus has not achieved any results. In fact, it has underlined the difference in viewpoints, according to an official Syrian source this morning.

However, this Syrian source noted that the door of dialogue is still open and that Syria is ready to continue the dialogue, especially since the United States has ended its earlier estrangement with Syria and resumed the dispatch of high-ranking U.S. officials to Damascus.

Regarding the ideas brought by the U.S. secretary to Syria, the Syrian source said Shultz did not present any new initiative, but submitted ideas which essentially center on an interim settlement of what is taking place in the occupied Arab territories. He proposed a series of measures which could be taken to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants in these territories.

The Syrian source added that proposals made by Shultz provide for building schools and roads, providing water supply, and guranteeing more jobs for Palestinians in the occupied territories, provided this is followed by municipal elections ensuring some form of self-rule as a prelude to the international conference.

The official Syrian source said Shultz spoke about this conference as the last step and the beginning of a comprehensive settlement. The source explained:

The Syrian side asked Shultz about the authority which, in his opinion, would supervise these measures and also about the nature of the international conference. The U.S. secretary replied that Israel would supervise these measures and that the international conference would, in the U.S. viewpoint, serve as a framework for direct bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab states concerned.

The Syrian source asserted that the Syrian side reaffirmed the Syrian stand, which says:

Partial solutions have proved their failure and that the Camp David accords have not ensured just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. Proof of that are the events in the occupied territories, the reactions in Egypt, and what also could take place in any Arab state that follows the course of peaceful settlement.

The Syrian source added that Syria affirmed to Shultz its adherence to the convocation of the international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO and the five permanent member states of the Security Council, as the only key to a settlement, and not the partial solutions presented by the U.S. side, according to the aforementioned Syrian source.

Salman Notes 'Substantive Differences'

JN282152 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that the uprising in the occupied Arab land has made the United States work toward presenting new ideas on a comprehensive peace in the region, after such previous plans as the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David agreements and the Lebanese-Israeli 17 May agreement met with failure.

In a statement to AP, the minister noted that the United States has come to realize that it will be hard to find a Mideast solution without Syria and the PLO.

Salman emphasized that a combination of the Palestinian uprising and Arab and international solidarity with Palestinian rights will make the United States reassess its ideas and initiate a new dialogue with the governments of the region.

There are substantive differences of outlook between us and the United States, making it impossible to reach agreement on the ideas brought by Shultz, said Salman. We would like U.S. decisions to be free from Zionist control, he added. The minister reiterated that an international conference grouping the five permament members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned, including the PLO, is the best route to peace.

The minister discussed the anti-Syria drive mounted by the United States and certain European countries. He said that by restoring contacts with Syria, the United States proved that the charges implicating Syria in terrorism are groundless. With the exception of Britain, the European states have resumed normal ties with Syria.

The British stand, added the minister, has kept Britain from playing any significant role in the affairs of the region.

TISHRIN Cited on U.S. Policy, Shultz Tour

JN281556 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA)—In an analysis today, the newspaper TISHRIN discussed the fact that the United States has been listening to the views of the parties to the Middle East conflict for more than 40 years without making a decision on it, except for its constant backing of Israel, supplying it with the most lethal weapons, and supporting it in occupying Arab territories or in undermining Arab sovereignty.

The paper says that when the Americans raise the issue of exploring views as a facade for their policies, they do so every time to probe the Arab stand, to find out how many

concessions can be obtained for Israeli and U.S. plans, which aim to contain the Arabs and place them under U.S. control, as in the case of the Camp David accords.

The paper explains that from the British Balfour Declaration to the American Shultz mission, currently touring the region searching for new concessions, the whole matter has been designed to drag the Arabs into relinquishing their territory and consequently abandoning their independence.

TISHRIN ridicules those who adopt Western terminology about the farce of so-called lost opportunities. This is the case in Cairo, which is repressed by the Camp David accords. The paper affirmed that those people fear that the continuation of the Palestinian uprising may undermine them as well as Israel.

The paper expressed its confidence that the more there are who fear the real revolution, which is growing and sinking its roots deep into the ground, the more there will be who admire and support it worldwide. Consequently, this will be the beginning of the decline of this alien and venomous entity which has been planted in the Arab region.

Concluding, the writer of this analysis says:

I wish I could present George Shultz, who speaks eloquently only about the rights of Jews, with a film shot by the American CBS network, showing four Israeli soldiers breaking the bones of two Palestinian youths in a manner unprecedented in history. We have only seen and read about analogous things in the Torah of Shultz' civilized companions in Tel Aviv.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Remarks on Soviet Withdrawal, Rebels

LD290640 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 28, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, attended Koran recitation which was held here on the 40th day of the death of Fakhr-e Afghan Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan and prayed to his soul.

The Koran recitation was attended by some ministers, prominent Islamic figures, clergymen, Ajmal Khatak, Pashtun poet, and distinguished figures and a number of Pashtuns and Baluchis residing in Kabul.

Later, the religious scholars and clergymen organised an extensive meeting in support of the recent statement by the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah. A number of religious scholars and clergymen delivered speeches in support of the statements. Then, President Najibullah in his speech first talked about the great political and social personality of Khan 'Abdul Ghaffar Khan and later turned to the significance of February 8 statements by the president of the Republic of Afghanistan and the leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev.

President Najibullah stressed that these statements have paved all the ways for a just and responsible solution for the situation around Afghanistan.

However, contradictory pronouncements are heard from Pakistan. Now that the question of the return of the Soviet limited military contingents is totally solved in the statements they wish to set up a so-called transitional government before the return of the Soviet military contingent. The scheme actually means that the Soviet military contingents should first put to power the so-called government of the extremist groups. Whereas the formation of a subsequent coalition government is absolutely up to the people of Afghanistan. The people and state sovereignty in Afghanistan will never agree to a government to be formed for Afghans in Islamabad, he stressed.

Foreign Minister Departs for Geneva Talks

LD270619 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 26, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, leading a delegation left here today for Geneva, to participate in the forthcoming Geneva talks.

At the Kabul International Airport, 'Abdul Wakil and his delegation were seen off by the deputies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and V. Fedosov, charge d'affaires of Soviet Union Embassy in Kabul.

Amin Interviewed on CSSR Visit, Relations

LD290636 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 28, BAKHTAR—The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, CSSR today is the second among the socialist countries, after the Soviet Union, to have wide trade relations with the Republic of Afghanistan.

This was stated in an interview by Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister who recently returned home after visiting CSSR for discussions on further strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The volume of trade between Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia he pointed out, reached about seventy million dollars per annum, during recent year.

He further said that during his visit the CSSR side expressed full support to the policy of national reconciliation and promised to contribute to the development and economic projects of Afghanistan as well as in training Afghan cadres.

The Afghan delegation succeeded he added that in mainly attracting the cooperation of CSSR in economic, trade, and technical spheres, such as granting of long term credits on easy terms for purchase of machine-tools by the private sector, establishment of Afghan-CSSR joint projects for manufacture of paper, nails, tiles, shoes, distilled water, surgical cotton, medicines, medicinal herbs processing and dried fruit processing etc.

The Afghan delegation also succeeded to the expansion of Afghan exports to CSSR and reciprocally the raising of the volume of imports from that country and ending the monopoly handling of CSSR imports to the Republic of Afghanistan by certain persons, and in expansion of cooperation between the chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries, exchange of delegations and holding of exhibitions, establishment of an Afghan restaurant in Prague.

Czechoslovakia has given appreciable assistance in training Afghan cadres. The first skin processing plant called Afkara was set up with Afghan-CSSR joint investment. We hope to see more such joint companies set up in state and private sectors Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia, Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin concluded.

Bangladesh

Bomb Blasts Injure 11 in Dhaka 26 Feb

BK270546 Hong Kong AFP in English 0514 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 27 (AFP)—A series of bomb blasts apparently linked to next week's controversial parliamentary election rocked Dhaka late Friday, leaving at least 11 people injured, police said Saturday.

Police said seven of the injured had been admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital while the rest had been given first aid at different city clinics.

Police said seven people were injured, four of them seriously, when several bombs were thrown from a bridge on an election procession in the new market district of the capital. Police and eye-witnesses said they believed the explosives were hurled by anti-government activists opposing the March 3 parliamentary election which Bangladesh's major opposition parties and alliances have vowed to boycott.

Press reports Saturday said that election processions came under attack Friday from anti-election activists in Dhaka's Tejgaon Industrial District where home-made bombs injured four people.

Explosions also occurred in several other areas of the capital late Friday, the reports said.

The Bengali daily ITTEFAQ said that at least 15 people had been injured Friday in clashes between supporters and opponents of the election in the eastern town of Narayanganj. The newspaper said that two of the injured had been admitted to a Dhaka hospital. The clashes erupted during a march by supporters of a local Freedom Party candidate, the daily added.

8 Injured in 27 Feb Blasts

BK280528 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 28 (AFP)—At least eight people were injured in bomb blasts and clashes in Dhaka apparently linked to next week's parliamentary elections, press reports said Sunday.

There were several clashes and bomb blasts in Dhaka Saturday, when election processions came under attack from opposition activists opposing the parliamentary polls on Thursday. At least seven people were injured and all were admitted to hospital, the reports said.

Reports from northern Rangpur town, about 155 miles (250 kilometers) from here, said one person was injured when several bombs went off at an election rally addressed by retired Colonel Farooq Rahman, leader of the Freedom Party.

The Freedom Party is one of the few political organisations participating in Thursday's polls, which Bangladesh's major opposition parties and alliances have vowed to boycott.

On Friday, at least 26 people were injured in bomb blasts and clashes in Dhaka and the eastern town of Narayanganj.

2 Killed, 14 Injured by Police in Khulna

BK260556 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 27 feb 88

[Text] In Khulna, police had to open fire when a violent mob tried to obstruct them and snatch away an accused arrested on charges of throwing bombs at an election rally. A press release issued by the Khulna metropolitan police commissioner said the police at Daulatput bus stand had to open fire in self-defense and to disperse the unruly mob led by transport workers. Two people were killed and 14 others injured in the clashes. The mob threw stones and bombs and tried to set on fire police vehicles near the bus stand.

The press release says the unruly mob damaged at least four police vehicles and two private trucks during clashes. Twelve policemen including two officers were also injured.

India

Foreign Secretary Menon To Visit Islamabad 1 Mar

BK271610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] India has informed Pakistan that the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, is being sent to Islamabad as the prime minister's special emissary for an exchange of views on developments relating to Afghanistan. Mr Menon is expected to leave for Islamabad on Tuesday [1 March].

President Ziaul Haq had earlier telephoned Mr Rajiv Gandhi. While conveying his thanks for the invitation to visit India, he has expressed his inability to do so because of preoccupations at home. He has suggested that Mr Gandhi may visit Islamabad himself or send his emissary.

Pant 'Rules Out' IPKF Leaving Sri Lanka Soon

BK280817 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has ruled out withdrawal of the peacekeeping force [PKF] from Sri Lanka in the near future. Talking to newsmen at Taloda in Maharashtra, he said though the situation has returned to near normal in the island's northern part, the PKF has a responsibility to ensure that the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement is not sabotaged. He said the PKF mission undertaken at the Sri Lankan Government invitation is not yet complete.

Mr Pant said the progress of election will have to be watched to judge whether complete normalcy has returned to the island. Praising the PKF jawans [soldiers], he said they are gaining control despite the sniper fire and hurling of explosives by militants in the Eastern Province.

Spokesman on Armacost Meeting With Gandhi

BK261554 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The U.S. undersecretary of state, Mr Michael Armacost, had extensive discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi today.

An official spokesman described the discussions as part of continuing dialogue with the United States on matters of mutual interest. He said the purpose of Mr Armacost's visit was to apprise the government at the highest level of the U.S. perspectives on recent developments in East-West relations and on important regional issues following the visit of the U.S. secretary of state, Mr Shultz, to Moscow.

Replying to a question by newsmen, the spokesman said that Afghanistan was discussed. Answering another question, the spokesman that we have also been apprised at the highest level by the Soviet Government about the talks Mr Shultz had with the Soviet leaders.

Mr Armacost leaves for home tomorrow morning.

2 'Intruders From Pakistan' Killed in Punjab

BK270915 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, two intruders from Pakistan were shot dead by the Border Security Force in Jalalabad sector under Fazilka subdivision. A third accomplice managed to escape.

'Terrorists' Kill 7 in Punjab 28 Feb

BK290342 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, seven members of two families were shot dead by terrorists in village Kalibamian near Batala in Gurdaspur District last night. Five persons were also injured in the incident. They have been admitted to hospital.

According to an official spokesman, the terrorists, armed with assault rifles, came to the village and opened indiscriminate fire on the inmates of the two houses. The police and paramilitary forces launched a massive combing operation in the area to apprehend the culprits.

2 Gurkha 'Activists' Killed in Darjeeling

BK271620 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Two GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were killed in an exchange of fire with a police party in the Kurseong Subdivision of Darjeeling District yesterday evening. The incident occurred when the police conducted a raid in jungles between (Ambotia) and (Balasan) area and cordoned off the entire area. Thirty-four GNLF activists have been arrested from the area.

3 Killed in Continuing Violence

BK281614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] In West Bengal, three persons, including a CRPF jawan [Central Reserve Police Force soldier], were killed in separate encounters between the police and GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists in Kurseong subdivision today. The DIG [deputy inspector general of police] Darjeeling range told our correspondent that one CRPF jawan was killed and another injured in a landmine explosion at Pahuri near Mirik this morning.

In another incident, the GNLF activists fired at a police party. One GNLF man was killed when police retaliated. Police recovered arms and other explosive materials from the area.

In another encounter at (Koyabasti), one GNLF activist was killed and two injured. Five persons were taken into custody. GNLF men exploded two bombs in (Gardinia), Lebong, last night. They also ransacked a State Bank of India branch at Lodama.

Iran

Khamene'i Threatens Military Response to UN Move

LD291717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Dear listeners, before reading our news reports, I draw your attention to a report that I have just received:

On the eve of raising the draft proposal of the UN Security Council's second resolution a few moments ago, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the chairman of Supreme Defense Council, in an interview with our correspondent, announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on this draft proposal:

The Security Council makes decisions under U.S. influence; the United States and some governments which are members of the Security Council, with a hostile attitude toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, are passing another resolution in which the rights of the Iranian nation have been ignored. We declare that if this resolution is approved, the way to any political solution will be blocked, and we will become even more determined in the belief that the only solution to the imposed war is a military one.

He emphasized: Any political solution must, as a first step, identify Saddam as the aggressor.

WIH Denies Shelling Iraqi Housing Areas

LD271032 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Iran's War Information Headquarters (WIH) heer Saturday categorically denied Iraqi claim that Iran had shelled Iraq's Qal'at Dizah and Bimalek [placename as received] housing quarters north of Al- Sulaymaniyah Province.

A spokesman for the headquarters said that Iraq's claim is pure fabrication for justifying intended atrocities in the future.

War of Cities Begins; Tehran, Baghdad Hit

Tehran Bombed; 1 Killed

LD271058 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—At least one civilian was martyred and a number of others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed a non-military center in southern Tehran around Noon today.

'Deterrent Attacks' on Baghdad

LD271103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] In retaliation for an Iraqi aircraft attack on a civilian region in the Tehran suburbs today, the fighters of Islam will make the military-economic installations in the cities of Baghdad and Basra the target of deterrent attacks during the next few hours.

The WIH released a statement in which it asked the residents of the cities of Baghdad and Basra to hasten to evacuate the areas around the economic-military installations in those cities.

The statement stresses: The deterrent operations of the fighters of Islam will continue until the Baghdad rulers put a full stop to their nefarious activities.

Spokesman on Attacking Iraqi Cities

LD271906 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants will powerfully retaliate any Iraqi aggression against residential and non-military regions of the country, warned a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Saturday.

Following today's Iraqi air raid on a non-military site near Tehran as well as fresh threats by the Ba'thist regime to resume attacks on civilian quarters, the spokesman said although Iran never initiatives attacks on residential areas, it will powerfully respond to Iraqi attacks.

The retaliatory measures of the Muslim combatants will make Iraq's Ba'thist regime remember the might of the Islamic Republic, he vowed.

The WIH spokesman made it clear that the Muslim combatants will powerfully answer today's dastardly attack by the Iraqi regime which speaks of Baghdad rulers ill-intentions to resume raids on civilian and non-military regions of the Islamic Republic.

Military and economic installations of all Iraqi cities except the four holy ones will be "showered with bullets and missiles" once the Iraqi regime starts its folly, warned the spokesman adding, the Iranian Muslim forces will powerfully answer Iraqi attacks and "make them rue their misdeeds".

Iraqi Sites Hit in Retaliation

LD281056 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Iranian fighters heavily bombed Basra petrochemical plant, 'Abd al-Khasib oil installations and supply bridge of Umm Al-Rasas [place name as received] at 09:30, 09:35, and 09:40 (06:00, 06:05, and 06:10 GMT) Sunday and returned safely to bases.

The bombings were carried out in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on a non-military area near Tehran Saturday and Iraq's bombings of Kurdish city of Saqqez, western Iran on the same day which martyred 21 civilians and injured many more.

WIH Head on Renewed Cities War

LD281302 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters [WIH] Dr. Kamal Kharrazi today said that the Iraqi regime is trying to start the fourth stage of the so-called war of the cities and once again impose an unwanted war on Iran.

He said in an interview here that one civilian was martyred and 17 othes wounded in an Iraqi bombing of a non-military center in southern Tehran yesterday. Enemy warplanes also bombarded the town of Saqqez, northwestern Iran, Saturday martyring 21 people and wounding a number of others, he said.

These Iraqi attacks show the Ba'thist ruler's intention to resume the war of the cities, a war which has entailed agonizing and severe consequences for the Baghdad regime in the past, he said.

The Islamic Republic never wants the war to spread beyond the battlefields, he said but added that if the Baghdad regime continues its acts of mischief Iran's Muslim combatants will be forced to pound all "nests of corruption" in Baghdad as a retaliatory measure, Kharrazi stressed.

Kharrazi said as a reprisal against Saturday's Iraqi air raids economic-military centers in Basra were heavily shelled by Iranian combatants last night while Iranian jet fighters in three bombing missions today hit Basra petrochemical plants, Umm al-Rasas [place name as received] bridge and Abd al-Khasib oil installations inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

Iran has never initiated the war of cities and will never resort to it, but will give a crushing response to any Iraqi mischievous acts, Kharrazi vowed.

The WIH head called on international organizations to force the Iraqi regime to stop its attacks on civilians before it gets too late. The Baghdad regime itself is responsible for all consequences of Iranian hit-backs, he declared.

Iraqi Planes Overfly Provinces

LD271650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, aircraft of the warmongering regime of Iraq violated the airspace of Bakhtaran, Lorestan, Ilam, and western Azarbayjan Provinces today, but were repelled thanks to the alertness of the air defense units stationed in those areas and the tactical measures of Iranian Air Force. Before they were able to do anything, the enemy aircraft were forced to flee.

According to this report, while fleeing, the aircraft of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq broke the sound barrier over some of our country's western towns.

Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD290559 Tehran IRNA in English 0557 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Three surface-to-surface missiles were fired at radio television building and two military centers in Baghdad early Monday morning in retaliation for renewed Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian areas.

The central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement issued early Monday said that the attack was in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on non-military areas in the outskirts of Tehran, Kurdish city of Saqqez, Dezful in Khuzestan Province and Hamadan last week which claimed at least 28 civilians' lives.

The statement said that the Iraqi regime has renewed its attacks on Iranian civilian areas because it is unable to fight Muslim combatants on the battlefronts.

The missiles of the IRGC Air Force were fired at 02:55, 03:05, 03:25 hours local time Monday (23:25, 23:35 and 23:55 hours GMT Sunday).

The statement warned the Iraqi Government that its renewed attacks on civilian areas will not go unanswered.

Iraqi Attack on Tehran

NC291551 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Dear viewers: At 1823 Tehran time [1453 GMT] today, Tehran's residential areas were targets of the Iraqi regime's aerial aggression. Details of the Zionist enemy's crime will be presented during the 2000 hours [1630 GMT] newscast tonight.

Planes Bomb Tehran Hospital

LD291628 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Tehran Monday evening, bombing some residential quarters including a hospital.

Several civilians were martyred and wounded in the criminal Iraqi act.

5 Executed in Public for Tehran Bombings

LD271734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] According to the verdict of the Tehran Islamic Revolution Court, five agents of world arrogance were found to be enemies of God [mu'aridh] and corrupt on earth [mofsid]. In accordance with honorable verses of the Holy Koran and in accordance with religious standards and the Corporal Punishment and Retribution Act, they were sentenced to death, charged with placing bombs in densely populated areas of Tehran, and killing or injuring a large number of innocent people.

The sentences were carried out in public at Ferdowsi Square this afternoon in the presence of various classes of the people.

The names of the convicts and their charges are as follows:

Rahim Yusofi-Azar, alias Mamrahim, son of Hasan; from Mahabad; charged with being responsible for the criminal network that placed bombs in Iran; being an agent of Iraq's intelligence organization and constantly travelling to Iraq to receive orders from that organization; repeatedly transporting explosives to Iran; giving orders to his gang members to carry bombs and detonate

them at Ferdowsi Square in Tehran, and also taking part in and supervising the procedure, which led to the martyring and injuring of dozens of Muslim people of Iran; and engaging in drug smuggling and buying and selling contraband, as an agent of Iraq's intelligence organization.

Mostafa Dara'i, alias Mostafa Pado, son of 'Ali, from Mahabad; charged with being a member of the bombing network, transporting bombs from Iraq to Iran, and placing them in Ferdowsi Square, in return for large sums of money from Iraq's security and espionage agents.

Mohammad Bakhtiyarfar, son of Ebrahim, from Mahabad.

Mostafa Ayesheh-Khani, from Mahabad.

Ahmad Ayyaf, son of Ja'far from Mahabad.

2 'Saboteurs' Executed in Public for Bombings
LD281510 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Two saboteurs responsible for a bomb explosion at Tajrish Square in northern Tehran last year were hanged in public at the scene of the crime today.

The terrorists, identified as Mohammad Kazimzadeh and Rasul Rahmani had been convicted to death by the Islamic revolution tribunal on charges of bomb planting, spying for the Baghdad regime and trafficking explosives to Tehran fom Iraq.

The two terrorists had received a large amount of money from the Iraqi Ba'thist regime for committing their criminal acts. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Urges War Against Israel, Oppressors
LD281238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Members of the Central Assembly of the Hizballah of Lebanon, accompanied by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Matters Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam and by the Iranian ambassadors to Syria and Lebanon, were received by Imam Khomeyni yesterday. During the meeting a report on Lebanese current affairs and the heroic struggles of the Muslim Palestinians was delivered. Later, the imam of the ummah commented as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our long experience in the world shows us that Muslims, even though they may be few in number, can win the victory if they resist their enemy, even though that enemy may be a superpower. You have seen in Lebanon, where the superpowers have gathered, that a small gorup can stand against them and defeat them.

You may not know what went on in Iran during the reign of the oppressor shah or when the British, during the Qajar dynasty, did whatever they wished, or after their departure and the departure of Reza Khan when Iran became a center for the United States and a place for their galloping invasion, when hardship intensified because the enemy had ample forces while the people had no weapons. Our young people were corrupted at an unbelievable rate. However, when the people of Iran felt that they themselves must stand up to the shah and to the United States, they did so and smashed the 2,500-year-old monarchy. This was a miracle that took place in Iran. We must never forget the lesson that the superpowers must be resisted.

Today, all the powers—and the superpowers in particular—have combined forces to prevent the Muslim Palestinians from reaching their objectives. Furthermore, many people who claim sympathy with the Palestinians have no interest in having the Muslim Palestinians conquer Israel. Unfortunately, their silence, their compromise, and their idleness has helped prevent the Muslim Palestinians from gaining the victory because such a victory would be a victory for Islam. They are fearful that as Islam became victorious in Iran, disrupting their feasting and destroying their interests, Islam may sweep them away from Lebanon and Palestine. Therefore, all the satans are united to stop the growth of Islam.

We must bear this in mind and we must be prepared to wage jihad for God. Defense of the values and homelands of Muslims, as well as their honor, is a must. We must prepare ourselves for the divine will and the defense of Muslims. We must stand up against Israel and the aggressors, particularly in the present situation when the real sons of Islamic Palestine and Islamic Lebanon, the Hizballah and the Muslim revolutionaries in the occupied territory and in Lebanon, are giving their blood and their lives for all Muslims.

In the face of so much savagery and barbarism we must resist and be resolute. We must rush to their aid and reveal those who make compromises. I wish you success and you must be certain that you will be successful. The Islamic Republic of Iran, too, will be by your side, as will all Muslims and all of the world's oppressed. God willing, you will be victorious. May God's blessings be upon you.

Montazeri Receives Afghan Clergy, Warns USSR
LD281418 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, a group of combative Afghan clergymen met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. The meeting discussed the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan and its problems, and the plots being hatched by the superpowers.

While praising and thanking the ulema, the clergy, and other classes of the Muslim Afghan nation for their indefatigable struggles, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The Soviet Government made a big mistake—to occupy Afghanistan militarily.

He continued: Although the USSR's slogan supported the deprived and the masses, its action caused the martyrdom or imprisonment of hundreds of ulema, academicians, and other classes of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and Also caused a great deal of damage to Afghanistan. In addition to the loss of life, the USSR has ruined its own reputation in the world. Today, thanks to the maturity, Islamic awareness, and resistance of the innocent people of Afghanistan and their relentless self-sacrifices and struggles, the Soviet Union has realized its mistake and has announced that it is about to leave that country.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri went on: The Soviet Government should be aware that if it intends to make a show-piece exit, to place in power a particular group subservient to the Soviet Union, and if it does not allow the Afghan nation to determine its own fate, that would be another mistake by the Soviet Union.

The deputy leader stressed: In these sensitive times for the Islamic movement of Afghanistan, the Islamic ulema and the combative Muslim groups, whatever their sect or denomination, should overlook their sectarian differences. They should all join forces and unite for the sake of the Islamic movement of their nation and for the future of their country. As I have stressed before—and certain steps in this direction have been taken—the combative Afghan ulema of any sect or denomination and the combative Muslim groups should form a united front. Individual groups should not think of bringing their own group into power, otherwise they will be defeated.

I sense danger in that if the present lack of coordination continues, God forbid, then civil war will break out in that country in the future, and they will not be able to stand on their own feet. Perhaps this is a superpower plot. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The Afghan nation has tasted colonialism. After being colonized by the Soviet Union, it should not be colonized by the United States and its satellites. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

Sermon on Rule of Jurisconsult

LD262228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1524 GMT 26 Feb 88

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on 26 February at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I invite, I advise the dear praying brothers and sisters to adhere to piety, to avoid and shun sin, and to shun sensual desires that lead to man's destruction and prevent the attainment of permanent and everlasting happiness. I beseech exalted God to grant this success to us all, a success that will enable us to daily reinforce our spirit of piety and our self-control in the face of sensual desires and sins.

My discourse today will continue the debate on previous discussions concerning the system of the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the jurisconsult] and the Islamic and Koranic bases of vice regency [velayat] commands. This continues last week's discourse, the unravelling of the phrase in which we said that the velayat-e faqih and the rule of the jurisconsult is in fact the rule of religious jurisprudence.

First, I will summarize the previous discourse for the sake of continuity. We said that government and vice regency, in accordance with Islam, is a matter close to [malhuz] exalted God. Exalted God has envisioned divine rule through chosen individuals and through his prophets. God's prophets have also continued this divine rule so that after the prophet's mission, after the holy life of the prophet, the immaculate imams and God's saints [oliyah] were divine vice regents. That very same divine vice regency was personified in the vice regency of the imams, may God's peace be upon them.

In the period of the Major Occultation [of the 12th imam], this vice regency and this rule, both in accordance with the definite and clear command of the intellect and based on Islamic and Shar'ia reasoning, devolves upon someone who is a theologian, who is wise, who is perceptive about the situation and the conditions of the time; in other words, a jurisconsult.

We said that these are a series of facts pertaining to divine rule and divine vice regency and, because today the most worthy person to govern is a totally qualified jurisconsult, there are no differences, in principle, between Islamic sects. Everyone accepts that, under any conditions, if there does not exist a God-appointed vice regent, if such a person does not exist, if, in other words, no individual has been appointed, that person who is closest to Islamic standards is most worthy of the vice regency.

That is, a jurisconsult is one who is fully qualified, wise, and knowledgeable; someone who is against sensual desires, who is perceptive with respect to the circumstances of his time, who has the power of administration; in other words, exactly what we, in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic and in the order of this Republic, have designated as velayat-e faqih.

The question that I raised before and will now discuss is: What is the extent of the power of this vice regency and this government by a jurisconsult? Does it apply to some areas of life or to all of them? I said before that the velayat-e faqih is not in reality the vice regency of an individual. This individual is, rather, the representative

[mazhar] of Islamic jurisprudence. Velayat-e faqih means the vice regency of Islamic jurisprudence. I will clarify these two points this week, and for the dear brothers and sisters, I will again clarify the matter of the extent of the power of the velayat-e faqih.

In brief, the extent of the power of the vice regency and that the rule of the jurisconsult is precisely the extent of the power of religious jurisprudence. Whatever the areas of human life into which Islamic jurisprudence, that is, divine commands, extends, the vice regency and the rule of the jurisconsult also extend to the same degree. As we know that Islamic jurisprudence does not consider any matter in human affairs to fall outside the jurisdiction of divine command; as all political, economic, personal, and social affairs fall within the jurisdiction of divine command, so also the rule of the jurisconsult covers all personal, social, political, economic, military, and international affairs, and all things that fall within the domain of Islamic and Shar'ia command.

The point that should be given special attention and importance is this: Islamic jurisprudence contains decrees of unequal value. Islamic jurisprudence is very comprehensive, with perhaps thousands of important issues and topics, some of which are more important than others. [passage omitted] For example, among Islamic decrees, there is one forbidding any Islamic society yielding to foreign enemies and foreigners from being permitted to dominate Islamic societies. This is a theological decree; it is not outside the scope of jurisprudence. If foreigners rule over an Islamic society somewhere, and if Muslims wish to follow this Islamic decree, what can they do? How should they react?

They must fight; they must sacrifice their lives and properties; they must accept great hardships. While carrying out these duties, some other necessary Islamic duties may take second place. It may not be possible for us to carry out those necessary tasks. For example, self-preservation is a religious necessity, as is safeguarding others' property. However, when the question of being ruled by foreigners arises, other necessities take second place. [passage omitted]

Therefore, if there is a choice between two religious decrees, one of which is more important than the other, a person who knows, who is a jurisconsult, who understands the present situation, who understands the issues, who knows about politics and knows about enmities, he can choose one over the other. Which one will he choose? The more important one. This chapter on choosing between issues is taught and discussed in our seminaries. This applies everywhere, that is, wherever two decrees clash, the more important is chosen by the jurisconsult. Of course, not everyone can recognize the importance of the decree.

He must be one who is familiar with the whole body of jurisprudence. He must know Islamic jurisprudence. He must also understand the interests of society and of faith. Not everyone who knows jurisprudence, not everybody who is a theologian, distinguishes them. There are far too many theologians who are not aware of the issues of the time and therefore may not understand how to give priority to one order over another. They are not qualified to discern the interests of society.

However, in Islamic society he who is the jurisconsult of the ummah, he who is the leader of society, he who is a theologian and who can see things and who is just, he who does not give in to desires of the flesh and is not influenced by personal interests—he will understand the interests of the Muslims.

Well, there are two religiously binding deeds—or if one deed is religiously mandated and the other is religiously prohibited, or if one deed is binding and the other is optional, then it must remain as such. One cannot change a religious deed which is decreed to be optional to anything else.

However, in cases where conflicts arise between an individual's interests and that of the faith or society, then the vice regent will decree that optional deed to be prohibited because of serving another set of interests. He can decree any binding deed as prohibited because of another set of interests. In reality, this amounts to giving priority to one religious decree over another decree based on their order of importance.

This is the set of powers belonging to the vice regency. Therefore, you realize that powers of the vice regency and the decrees that the vice regent issues based on the interests of faith or society all result in the revival of jurisprudence.

Some short-sighted individuals may well think that if a decree is issued on the basis of expediency and exigency and if such a decree leads to annulment of a seemingly religiously binding decree on a short-or long-term basis, then the question arises as to what happens to jurisprudence. Indeed, they may say that such a move will lead to crushing religious jurisprudence. No, that is not so. Jurisprudence will not be trampled upon; it will be revived. This is because the decree which is preferred, which is made binding, is also a religious order. That is, the vice regent may decree that Muslims are bound to give their property, or part of their property, for a stated objective. Well, the people have hegemony over their property. [passage omitted]

This is a religious order and no one should have any doubts about it. People have full rights over their property and no one has the right to take their property away from them. However, then there is a set of interests that requires the property of these same people—who have full rights over their property—to be taken from them to be spent on some objective. How can this be explained? An example is that of defending Islam, defending the Islamic regime, or safeguarding the welfare of the deprived strata, or the preservation of the security of the

society. This exigency, which is a religious interest and ranks as a religious order, takes priority over the rule that people have full rights over their property in such cases.

Another example may be considered. The Islamic ruler decrees that such and such crop must not be cultivated in your lands. The time may come, for instance, that the Islamic society needs wheat; circumstances may require this. In this case, the Islamic ruler will decree that anyone who owns farmland, or farmland with certain capabilities or in certain areas, is prohibited from farming certain crops. The Islamic ruler will decree that such a farmer is duty bound to cultivate only wheat or barley.

Well, someone may say: I am the landowner, I have powers over my property. I want to farm watermelons rather than wheat. Yes. Ownership rights, hegemony over the property and freedom to cultivate what one desires are all religious tenets. However, preservation of the order of the society, preservation of the well-being of the society—if wheat does not reach the society, the order and welfare would vanish—is also a religious tenet taking precedence over the other. Under such circumstances, the Islamic ruler orders that in certain regions under certain conditions nobody has the option to cultivate any crops other than those decreed.

Another example. Nobody has the right to cultivate poppy seeds. Someone may well say that poppy seed is something that I like to cultivate on my land. That is not so. The general security and well-being of the society will be disrupted if someone trades in narcotics, or produces narcotics, or keeps such material. In this situation, the soundness of the society will be threatened, while preservation of society's soundness is a religious duty. The vice regent gives priority to this religious duty over your right of ownership, over your arable land capable of producing poppy seeds, for instance. Therefore, he decrees such a crop and such a deed is prohibited.

As can be seen, government decrees cannot be excluded from the compendium of Islamic jurisprudence. It is wrong to think that somebody can study the Risalah-al-'Amaliyyah and Tozih-ol Masalyel [handbooks and explanations of religious tenets] and be able to understand how to determine the order of priorities in Islamic tenets.

He who knows the priorities, who can distinguish the interests of society, and who can assess the decrees is the one to do so. This prerogative is specifically assigned to the vice regent.

Some individuals may think that if expediency and exigency decrees were to be inaugurated, then every individual in any corner of the country can say that he personally does not think it expedient for a given religious rule to be observed. On such a premise then some people ask: What will happen to divine rules? This is not the case. The question is not that of every individual having the power to distinguish the interests of the society. That task is assigned to the vice regent or to his representative or his appointees. Not everybody has the powersto say that he does not believe it necessary for some religious rules to be observed or some other things be observed as divine rules.

Nobody has such powers. Only the vice regent or a person appointed by him has these powers. Therefore, in cases where such decrees are needed—decrees which the imam of ummah must order—the imam has set up an assembly to distinguish these interests. This same assembly will determine society's interests and decree expediency and vice regency orders [maslehati va velayati].

The imam set up an assembly comprised of a number of the responsible authorities of the country, individuals who know the interests and are familiar with problems and aware of religious tenets, as well as the policies of the day. Among these 13 assembly members the imam has appointed six theologians from the Council of Guardians. These six theologians are just and fully qualified theologians according to the Constitution. They know the rules and problems.

They are appointed as well as the other responsible authorities of the country. They all are familiar with religion and the needs of the time. The imam has set up a complete and qualified 13-man assembly to decree the order of vice regency whenever and wherever it believes it is in the interests of the regime.

What does the interests of the regime mean? It means the defense of the country, the survival of the regime; the welfare of the people, or the welfare of a particular class, such as farmers and workers. We cannot allow any class of society to live under difficult conditions for the sake of appearances of religion that are incorporated in the Risalah al-'Amaliyyah. We cannot remain ignorant of the fact that preservation of the interests of the various classes of the society is part of Islamic jurisprudence..

How can we pay attention to the lesser and second class religious rules and then ignore a very important religious order, such as the preservation of the Islamic regime, maintaining security, or welfare of a class of the society? This is Islamic justice.

The assembly for determining the interests [the 13-man assembly decreed by Khomeyni] distinguishes interests in such cases and then acts upon its decision. The imam has exercised utmost caution, as can be seen by his explicit reference in his decree. That is, to ensure that no interest is disregarded, he decided to set up this assembly. Otherwise, if he did not want to exercise so much caution perhaps this assembly would not have been so large, with such quality and volume.

He wanted to ensure that no interests, among the Islamic interests, are disregarded or annihilated. He wanted to ensure that Islamic society is administered, God willing,

according to the Islamic interests as viewed in Islamic jurisprudence. For the information of our dear brothers and sisters, I say that this assembly is being followed up with great seriousness.

It has held two sessions. As its work is very sensitive and important, as it is important for it to discern the facts to which its work and role are related, and as it must decree orders on a sound and complete basis and also corresponding to the interests, these two sessions—which have been lengthy and in which many items have been debated—have been spent debating the order of this work and the quality of the order, how issues are to be discussed, and how orders are to be established. Thank God, the sessions have been very good. Members of the assembly continue the work with understanding, with interest, and with full cooperation and eagerness. We hope, God willing, this assembly may be able to break the deadlocks.

Those who imagine that the establishment of the assembly means that the power of a given organ is decreased or that it is intended to weaken a given organ or strengthen another organ are wrong; this is not so. This is a new task. Of course, expedient orders have already been decreed. In the religious rulings of our dear imam there is one place where we see vice regency and exigency orders. Both the government and the imam in person have done so. However, now this affair has been given an order. Many laws in the past were approved in the Islamic Consultative Assembly and then sent to the Council of Guardians. If the council decided they contravened the letter of jurisprudence, the council would reject them. Well, that used to create deadlock.

Of course, in some cases the Majlis could amend the laws to incorporate both the Majlis' own exigency views and the council's strict theological views. Where these two could be provided for then the law would be passed and enforced—which was in the majority of cases. However, there were cases that, although few in number, were very important; they would have a great effect on the overall situation. These laws were left in limbo. That was a deadlock which the imam has removed. Now an assembly has been set up on which the imam has bestowed his own powers stemming from the velayat-e faqih.

Now this assembly has been empowered on behalf of the imam to distinguish the interests of the regime in each individual case. Whatever it deems to be in the interests of the regime, then this is an Islamic and religious decree. Why? Because the preservation of the regime depends on it, or the preservation of the social welfare depends on it, or the preservation of security and order depends on it.

As I said before, the preservation of the Islamic regime is one of the theological orders, the preservation of the Islamic Republic is one of the tenets of jurisprudence, and so is the welfare of the society. Any issue that these members of the Assembly, who possess political and theological understanding, believe correspond with the interests of the society and Islam is tantamount to a religious tenet. It cannot be excluded from religious tenets. God willing, we hope that with the deadlock being removed many problems that might have resulted from it will now be removed. A new phase will be opened in the movement of the Islamic Republic.

God willing, in subsequent weeks I will again discuss one or two points remaining on this issue and explain it further.

Sermon on Palestine, Afghanistan

LD262200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1558 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 26 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today I will talk about two issues relating to the Islamic world and one about the war fronts and the fighters. Now the issues of the Islamic world are those of Palestine and Afghanistan. These two are current issues of the Muslim world. Although our society is fully familiar with these issues, it is important and necessary to discuss them so that the people understand them better and also for the world to learn our stand.

Regarding the issue of Palestine, what we see today is the sensitivity of the arrogant world and their mercenaries toward the Islamic nature of this gigantic and heroic movement. From all over the world organs of reaction and arrogance try as much as possible to neutralize the Islamic aspect of this movement. In the last few years the world's political circles and news agencies have become accustomed to attributing to the Islamic Republic any event, any uprising, even small incidents such as two people having a political fight, or if a voice is raised in anger in any corner of the Muslim world, or in any part of the world.

They try to establish that the Islamic Republic has had a hand in many incidents in the Muslim world. Of course, in some places they are right, the Islamic Republic has influence there. Other times they are wrong, the Islamic Republic has no influence at all. However, political circles insist that Iran is provoking, inciting, and exerting its influence in certain countries in uprisings, demonstrations, explosions, and movements.

In contrast, during the current Palestinian uprising, political circles have attempted to minimize the connection between the uprising and the Islamic Republic. They try to say that there is no connection with the Islamic Revolution. Even some of those who speak on behalf of the Palestinian people—who are definitely not worthy to do so—clearly say that they have no connection with Iran, and that they are not Islamic at all. They are trying to minimize the connection between our revolution and the gigantic and bloody movement. Why?

Because they know that if an incident can be connected with the Islamic Republic, it is Islamic. If a group of people in Palestine are in contact with the Islamic Republic, if they are inspired and learn from the Islamic Republic, it must be Islamic. Political circles try to minimize this.

I am not saying the Palestinians are in contact with the Islamic Republic. What is certain is that the shouts and slogans raised in occupied Palestine today, the clenched fists, and the blows dealt to the usurping Zionists, are a reflection of the great and bloody uprising of our people in this Islamic and Koranic land. The whole world should know that the main impetus of the uprising of the Palestinian people, who embarked on the uprising with so much zeal, fervor, innocence, and firm resolve, was the victory of the Islamic Revolution. [crowd chants]

I say that if the Palestinian issue is to get anywhere, the only solution for it is what has already started inside the occupied lands, that is, those people should rely on God and the Islamic movement and exploit their Islamic faith. That is the only way to salvation. Discussions will not save them. Sitting outside occupied Palestine in safety, good health and comfort, eating, sleeping, having fun, bearing various titles, and uttering empty words will not solve the issue of Palestine. If Palestine is to be liberated, it should be liberated by the efforts of the Palestinian people. This effort cannot begin except through faith. Every Islamic society is the same. If those Islamic societies ruled by puppet, oppressive, and unjust regimes wish to cure their age-old problems, they must resort to the people's Islamic faith. This will guarantee the continuity of a movement and rescue mankind.

Now what kind of a wisdom is it, what kind of understanding is it that, despite slogans on defending Palestine, insists on denying the Islamic nature of this movement? This Islamic nature is in the interest of the Palestine problem. Those who try to deny the Islamic nature of Palestine are enemies of Palestine. They are not friends of the people of Palestine. They want to prevent the solution of the Palestine problem.

Today when one looks at the world political scene, one sees that this is so. The U.S. President sends a message to all governments of the Middle East inviting them to forget past differences and to think about today. Why do they say such things? Why do they address both the usurper Israel and the reactionary Arab governments that are secretly in league with Israel all at once and in one language? The reason is that they are afraid of the uprising of the Palestinian people. According to the American way of thinking, the U.S. President is right. His message contains a sound assessment in accordance with the interest of arrogance.

He knows that if the uprising succeeds, it will hurt not only Israel, but will also deal a blow to the governments that helped Israel by stabbing a dagger into the back of the Palestinian people. He knows that if this faithful and Muslim group is victorious inside the Israel, then it will threaten U.S. interests in the region. So he tells them to unite. He says Israel and the Arabs must cast aside their differences to make an alliance and in such an alliance to suppress the movement of the Muslim people of Palestine. That is what is meant by saying let bygones by bygones.

I say that the people of Palestine have awakened, and if, God willing, as a result of their awareness, they succeed in maintaining this Islamic line in their sacred uprising, they will undoubtedly overcome all their enemies. [shouts of approval]

Once again I state the position of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation which decisively support the Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine. We are sure that if they continue to persevere, God willing, they will have the same fate as that of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, that is, victory over all enemies. [crowd chants]

As for the Afghan issue, this is one of our most important problems. Of course, the heroic uprising of the people of Afghanistan, fighting continuously an armed struggle for nearly 8 years. [sentence as heard] Those who know about the Afghan issue know that for years the Afghan strugglers fought against elements of arrogance in their country. The Afghan struggling groups have roots. They are a determined and fighting people. They fought well. Now, thank God, these struggles are bearing fruit. Those who brought in their military forces are now withdrawing.

However, the most sensitive period in the Afghan issue is right now. Well, what will happen when the military forces depart? What form will the Government of Afghanistan take? What will the fate of the Afghan people be? Did the people of Afghanistan and the mujahidin endure so much destitution, give so many victims, and fight so fiercely merely for the sake of a government to come to power, after 9 years of fighting, which is no different from the previous governments of Afghanistan? Did they fight so that they could be within the grasp of this or that major world power? Are the Soviet forces to depart so that the forces of the United States or the West, for instance, will replace them? If this is the case, then there was no need for so much struggle.

A struggling nation sacrifices blood and endures desitution and experiences. Such a country which is a cradle of heroism but also of sadness and death struggles for a cause. What is the cause? Of course, we have never approved of interference in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan for anyone except for the nation of Afghanistan whom the mujahidin epitomize. We do not interfere in their affairs, nor do we allow anyone else to do so. The problems of Afghanistan must be solved by Afghans, the Afghan nation. Today the Mujahidin epitomize the Afghan nation. You know that the Afghan mujahidin have groups, organizations.

In Iran there are numerous emigrants and mujahidin. They have a strong coalition, an eight-man group in Iran. They have a seven-man coalition group in Pakistan. In any case, in this vast struggle representatives can be found from different groups, ethnic groups, and religious sects. They are brothers; they share the same country and the same faith. They must agree in order to achieve progress. However, the mujahidin symbolize and epitomize the Afghan nation. Some may have been driven out of their country, but they are simply biding their time.

Of course, they are part of the Afghan nation. Certainly they have voting powers but they cannot speak for their nation. Those who have fought, been politically active, and encouraged the people to resist must have the future of Afghanistan in their hands. That is our position. We will permit no major power to interfere in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan, not the Soviets, the Americans, the West, or any others. The Westerners must forget about trying to fill a void where they believe there is a vacuum. The Afghan nation will not tolerate it.

I recommend to the mujahidin of Afghanistan first, to maintain their resistance because there are signs of victory. Victory is not yet at hand. The future is not yet quite clear. What can crystallize the power of the people of Afghanistan is their resistance, otherwise they would have been annihilated many times. Only their resistance has been able to force their enemies to surrender.

The other important, fundamental issue is the preservation of their unity. Today the enemies of Islam are trying to create a rift among the Afghan mujahidin and the leaders of Afghan groups on various pretexts such as Shi'a and Sunni, race, tribe, language, and various other pretexts. The enemies of Islam, Muslims, and nations are using the same ploy that they used in other countries. The Afghans should be extremely alert. The Afghan groups and mujahidin must not underestimate their enemies. They should not attack their own friends. They should not lose their unity. Individual groups should not back other individual groups. There is no difference between them.

The Afghan mujahidin who are in Iran and Afghanistan and who belong to different sects are all mujahidin and all belong to Afghanistan. Each is the representative of a large portion of the Afghan nation. They should all be honored. They should be strong and wise, support each other, continue to resist, and God willing, determine the future of Afghanistan.

Our domestic issue concerns the fronts. As we have already said, our decisive policy is the policy of repeated blows. We have not forsaken and will not forsake this policy. As you have seen, a number of repeated operations were staged, the last of which was operation "Zafar-6" 2 days ago by the Iraqi mujahidin themselves. This was a successful, proud, and heroic military operation, which was staged by none other than the faithful Iraqi mujahidin who, alongside the Islamic fighters and their Iranian brothers—as they have done in previous operations—independently took charge of the operation and carried it out extremely successfully.

Of course, the enemy propaganda machinery denies the victories of the forces of Islam. And so they should. They have no choice. I believe that when the Iraqi forces suffer a blow, at first they do not even report their defeat to the Baghdad authorities, because owing to pressure and oppression they are afraid that if they say that they have been defeated they will receive severe treatment. I believe—I am not sure—that the defeated soldiers keep quiet about their defeats for some time, 24 hours, maybe more, maybe less. However, when these defeats do beome known, the Baghdad regime dares not admit that it has been defeated in such and such operation.

Not until the POW's are brought in front of cameras, or foreign reporters are taken to see the lands and the booty captured from the enemy and report it all to the world, are they forced to admit it. The morale of the Iraqi Army is so fragile that if it suffers the slightest blow in any sector, it affects the whole front and its morale drops. This is why they deny their defeats. Of course, world propaganda has never been in our favor. They take the Iraqi denials and convey them through their global propaganda media. However, we who see and know the truth about the operations that were staged know that they were very powerful operations. Our Iraqi brothers and Iraqi mujahidin staged the operation and dealt this decisive blow.

It is interesting to note that some of the Iraqi brothers were recently deported by the Iraqi regime. Of course, many of the forces were trained and experienced. They were sent to areas where they were given support by the SAIRI and training by the Guards Corps. Some were military men. Some were deported by the Iraqi regime recently. They did not come to Tehran; they did not even come on to Iranian soil. They stayed on Iraqi territory previously liberated by the forces of Islam. They received training there. They were organized there. They were prepared there. They did not see Iran. They went to war against the enemy Iraqi troops and were victorious. They also took some POW's and booty. [crowd chants slogans]

We will continue this policy; this movement must continue. As far as possible, we gave world officials such as the United Nations and others a chance. We were broadminded. We told them: You know that our nation will accept nothing less than the punishment of the aggressor. This is our condition. The aggressor must be punished. Ours is a fundamental issue for the whole region and the continuing stability and security of our own borders. With such a show of strength and so much perseverence our nation will accept nothing less. However, they could not, or would not. Of course, during this period the UN positions have been at times hostile and negligent.

Resolution No 598, which contained a great many articles, contained some of our views. They saw that our treatment of a resolution reflecting some of our views was positive. Although we did not accept Resolution No 598 as a whole—because it did not reflect all the wishes of the Iranian nation—we accepted the secretary general's plan which could make up for its shortcomings. However, they could not and did not follow it up.

We will attain our legitimate and logical goals at any cost. If we could accomplish this in the political arena and with the cooperation of international organizations, we would have no objection, of course. However, we see that the major powers in the United Nations are not prepared to understand the truth. They are not even prepared to accept existing realities.

They are not prepared to assess and estimate the strength of our fighters. They cannot understand that the Iraqi regime is moribund. When there is so much narrow-mindedness and disregard right from the beginning, then our only course of action—and we were right—was to deal repeated and continuous blows to the Iraqi regime and the aggressor Iraqi forces until the downfall of the Ba'thist, 'Aflaqi regime in Iraq. [crowd chants slogans]

Foreign Ministry Reportedly To Be Reshuffled
TA290935 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpts] As we reported in yesterday's newscast, the Islamic government has decided to make some changes in the Foreign Ministry in the hope of extricating itself from its political isolation.

Information on hand from reliable sources indicates that within the framework of these changes, Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, will be appointed political affairs deputy for the Americas and European countries, instead of Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam. [passage omitted]

Tehran political circles are saying that with the appointment of Mohammad Javad Larijani, all radical and leftist elements will be relieved of their Foreign Ministry posts, and so-called moderate individuals will take charge of the Islamic Republic's embassies and offices in Europe and America.

This report emphasizes that in future changes at the Foreign Ministry, Mahallati, who supervises the Islamic Republic's UN delegation, will be appointed deputy foreign minister for international affairs, and Kamal Kharrazi, supervisor of the War Information Headquarters and director of the Islamic Republic's official news agency, will be appointed the Islamic Republic's representative at the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Chemical Warfare Planned Against Basra
LD261843 Kuwait KUNA in English 1755 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Rome, Feb 26 (KUNA)—Iran has officially decided to use poisonous gases in its planned offensive against the southern Iraqi city of Basra next March and other areas along the battle front, according to press reports here.

KUNA acquired an advance copy of an article to be published by Italian weekly PANORAMA on Monday in which it said that China had supplied Iran with chemical materials and other poisonous gases for military uses.

The mass-circulation magazine, quoting Western intelligence sources, said that the first consignment of "mustard gas" was shipped from the Chinese port of Tianjin, 80 kilometers to the northeast [as received] of Beijing, to the Iranian port of Bandar-e Khomeyni in mid January.

This February, additional shipments of chemical gases were sent from China to Iran that filled Tehran's arsenal with deadly chemical weapons, according to the weekly.

The usually well-informed magazine said that heated exchanges took place in the Iranian leadership on the use of chemical warare and finally a decision was taken to storm Basra defenses using poisonous gases.

PANORAMA said that by the end of coming March when the front's lakes and marshes dry up, Iran will launch its major offensive involving 250,000-man strong units equipped with nerve gases that paralyses the opponents.

"The Iranians may thus be able to ensure certain gains," the magazine said, noting that Iranian parliament speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a close friend of the Chinese, was behind the idea.

He succeeded, following his Beijing visit in 1986, to buy Chinese Silkworm missiles and now a Chinese arsenal of chemical weapons.

"The Chinese have violated all international bans and contradicted their U.N. statements and (?continued) to sell arms to Iran," the magazine charged, adding that Beijing had set a precondition which is supplying the Afghan Mujahidin with some of the poisonous gases and other weapons which they will use in the event Pakistani-Afghan negotiations on a settlement to the Afghanistan question failed.

PANORAMA disclosed that a ship called 'Iran-Bayan' manned by a crew of the Revolutionary Guards 'Pasdarans' and special units, carried the arms.

The Pasdarans moved some of these weapons to a number of bases on the occupied Iraqi Al-Faw Peninsula from which the major offensive will be mainly launched, the magazine concluded.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,125

LD271713 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Iranian naval forces intercepted and searched 14 cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

The 3125th communique of the Joint Staff Command announcing the above, said Iran's air force planes effectively carried out patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman yesterday ignoring warnings of foreign warships.

The communique said exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire sporadically raged on between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraq's Ba'thist forces Friday, throughout the fronts.

It said Iranian combatants continued strengthening their defence positions and despatched patrol units especially to the western operational regions yesterday.

Muslim combatants of Iran inflicted substantial casualties and damage on enemy forces in the northwestern fronts, Friday destroying several heavy engineering vehicles of the Iraqis, said the communique.

Several munitions depots, some light and heavy vehicles and a number of tanks were set afire and destroyed in Eynkhosh and Nahr 'Anbar, western fronts Friday, it added.

In Mehran, Qasr-e Shirin and Nahr 'Anbar, the communique continued, the Muslim combatants checked Iraqi patrol operations killing and wounding some Ba'thist forces yesterday and forcing the others to flee.

It said engineering activities of Iraqi forces to set-up embankments were brought to a halt in Sumar and Mehran operational regions by the timely artillery fire of the Muslim combatants yesterday.

Movement of Iraqi motorized columns was also disrupted Friday in Kani-Sheykh, Mandali and Naft-e Shah by heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants, it added.

Armoured units of Iranian Muslim forces inflicted substantial damage yesterday on Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Eynkhosh and Nahr 'Anbar regions it concluded.

Communique No 3,126

LD281639 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters flew four separate sorties today, bombing Iraq's Basra petrochemical plants, Umm Rasas [name as received] bridge, Abu al-Khasib oil installations and enemy troop concentration sites in Sharhani and inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

The 3126th Join Staff communique, announcing the above, said tht all fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which took place at 09:30, 09:35, 09:40 and 13:18 hours local time (06:00, 06:05, 06:10 and 09:48 GMT). The bombings were in retaliation for recent Iraqi air raids on some residential areas in Iran, it added.

Meanwhile the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the navy, ignoring five warnings from some foreign warships.

On the war fronts Iraqi troops sustained considerable losses in men and equipment all over the battlefields in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants Saturday.

Iran's Muslim forces reconnoitered and shelled three Iraqi patrol convoys around Sumar, Kani-Sheykh and Chananeh, western sector yesterday, inflicting several casualties on them and forcing them to flee.

Artillery fire of Iran's Muslim forces also inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi tank squadrons in Panjwin, Nahr 'Anbar, Yebis and Eynkhosh yesterday.

On Saturday, Iranian combatants shelled a group of Iraqi forces attempting to unload ammunition in Kani-Sheykh and Panjwin, western and northwestern sectors, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

In Nahr 'Anbar, Chazabeh and west of Jofeyr, western and southern fronts, Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi engineering and logistical operations yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern and western sectors, Saturday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying five bunkers of theirs, concluded the communique.

Mujahidin Attack Iraqi Garrison

LD271016 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Iraqi mujahidin affiliated to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq infiltrated the city of Sinkav [name as received], east of Kirkuk, Friday and set ablaze the city's garrison.

The Iraqi mujahidin after crossing minefields and barbed wires around Sinkav destroyed a munition dump, six supply tents and a motorized pool in the garrison.

Sixty of the enemy forces were killed or wounded in the attack and the rest of them escaped to nearby mountains.

Kurds Attack Iraqi Labor Camp

LD271434 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Ramadan Headquarters, the center for the irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, reports that during the last few days the Peshmergas of the National Union of Iraqi Kurdistan executed ambush operations on the Al-Sulaymaniyah-Dukan road, killing or wounding over 50 Iraqi soldiers.

During the operations, four misguided Saddamists were captured by the Peshmergas and one Iraqi tank and several Iraqi personnel carriers were set ablaze. A number of light and heavy weapons were captured as booty by the combatant Kurdish forces.

The forces of the National Union of Iraqi Kurdistan also infiltrated the Nasr forced labor camp and killed 1 of the local mercenaries and captured 11 others.

Pakistan

President Declines Gandhi's Invitation

BK271531 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has informed the Indian prime minister that, due to preoccupations at home, he is unable to visit New Delhi at this time. In addition to sending a message to the Indian prime minister in this connection, the president also spoke with him on the telephone today. The president expressed gratitude to the Indian prime minister for the invitation extended to him to visit India.

The president referred to the long-standing invitation extended to the Indian prime minister to visit Pakistan, and suggested that he visit Islamabad for an exchange of views with himself and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. The president also proposed that if the Indian prime minister were unable to visit Islamabad at this time, he could send an emissary at any level to hold consultations in Islamabad at a mutually convenient date.

Noorani Discusses Topics for Geneva Talks

BK290736 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani left Islamabad this morning for Geneva, where he will lead the Pakistani delegation at the indirect talks on Afghanistan beginning Wednesday [2 March].

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, he said Pakistan will participate in the current round of indirect talks with a positive and constructive spirit, and we will strive to solve all the outstanding issues on finalizing the four instruments [of the agreement]. He said Pakistan will attempt to get positive assurances about the number of troops to be withdrawn during the initial phase. Moreover, he stated that there will be no (?aggression) during the troop withdrawal in the later stages and that a proper atmosphere will be created for the peaceful return of the Afghan refugees in dignity and honor.

The minister said he will have talks with Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, on expediting efforts to set up an interim government in Kabul. He said the Afghan mujahidin alliance has made a solid proposal on the establishment and structure of the interim government.

Zain Noorani said he knows Cordovez has also received a copy of these proposals and is seriously considering it for talks with other parties. He said we do not want any delay in the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan nor do we want any partial agreement that might delay the return of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan to their country. He said he is hopeful of getting Soviet cooperation. The responsibility of protecting the Afghan refugees from future (?instability) rests with the Soviet Union.

More on Noorani's Comments

BK290830 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has said that it is essential that a broad-based interim government acceptable to all Afghan people be established in Kabul which could be able to maintain peace within Afghanistan. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport today before his departure for Geneva to lead the Pakistan delegation at the proximity talks on Afghanistan beginning there on Wednesday [2 March].

He said Pakistan will participate in the resumed round of indirect Geneva talks in a fully constructive manner and (?show) endeavor to resolve all the pending problems with regard to the finalization of the four instruments.

He thanked the friendly countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the EEC countries who have strongly supported Pakistan's just stand for the formation of an interim government side by side with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He said the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, took the members of the parliament into confidence yesterday and discussed with them the Afghan problem and sought their advice. He said the prime minister is also keen to consult the national political leaders outside the parliament and hoped that this meeting would be held on Saturday next [5 March].

He said by that time he would come back on a short visit to brief the leaders and give them a comprehensive and detailed background of the situation. After this he would again go to Geneva with the final instructions of the government and the prime minister with regard to the stand to be taken by the Pakistani delegation.

He said it is the ardent desire of the present government that whatever stand we take, it should be in accordance with the feelings and aspirations of the people.

Official Responds to Gandhi's Remark on Siachen

BK281610 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Pakistan would like to settle all of its disputes with India in a peaceful manner through talks. Minister of State for Defense Rana Naim Mahmud said this while speaking on three identical adjournment motions in the Senate today. These motions concerned the Indian prime minister's statement in which he is reported to have said that Siachen is part of India. These motions were moved by Maulana Kausar Niazi, Prof Khurshid Ahmad, and Tariq Chowdhary.

The minister hoped that India would follow the policy adhered to by Pakistan, which is to maintain peaceful bilateral relations. He expressed regret over the Indian prime minister's statement and said Siachen is not part of India. However, Indian forces entered the Siachen area in 1984 in flagrant violation of the 1949 Karachi Agreement and the 1972 Simla Agreement. He said these areas have been under Pakistani administration since independence. The minister said Pakistan will not be discouraged by the Indian prime minister's statement. On the contrary, it only increases Pakistan's determination to protect its national interests. [passage omitted]

15 Soviet 'War Planes' Bomb Village 26 Feb

BK281730 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 28 (AFP)—At least seven people were killed and 15 seriously injured when Afghan jets bombarded a Pakistan village on the border with Afghanistan, reports reaching here said Sunday.

Residents in the area said 15 Soviet war planes Friday dropped 25 bombs in South Waziristan, about 450 kilometres (280 miles) southwest of here. The casualties were all Afghan refugees living in the area, they said.

The planes also targetted mountain bunkers set up by the mujahidin along the route to the eastern Afghan garrison town of Khowst, the reports said.

Afghan and Soviet troops broke through to Khowst after two months of fighting in December and January. The town had been under siege by the mujahidin for eight years.

Reports here say the rebels have recaptured the strategic road to Khowst after Soviet-Afghan oroops had brought fresh supplies to the town and withdrawn.

The Foreign Office here said one soldier died and another was injured in two separate Afghan incursions and cross-border shellings last week and a strong protest was lodged Sunday with the Afghan charge d'affaires.

12 Afghan Planes Bomb Mohmand

BK290224 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Twelve Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistani airspace in Darra-i Naba area in Mohmand Agency and dropped a few bombs on the 25th of this month. One civilian was killed in the bombing. The Afghan charge d' affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday, and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack.

Bombing in Kohat District Kills 5, Injures 11

BK280832 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] There was a bomb blast in the main market of Khal in Kohat District yesterday evening, killing 5 persons and injuring 11. Three of the dead and nine of the injured are Afghan refugees.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have expressed deep sorrow and regret on this brutal act of sabotage. In their separate messages, they conveyed their condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured.